

OPINION: FOOD CRISIS CULPRITS P.32 | FEATURES: JOKO WIDODO VISITS CHINA P.36

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HOLDING BACK THE HEAT

United action is needed to prevent
climate chaos



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Cover Design: Flushing Meadows Corona Park in New York City (XINHUA)

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Global Heat Alerts

The Northern Hemisphere has been hit by terrible heat again this summer, with many countries having issued alerts. London recorded temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius for the first time in history on July 19. More than 20,000 hectares of forests have been burned in Gironde, France. In China, heatwaves have blanketed parts of the country since June 13.

In recent years, the world has experienced scorching weather every summer. In the Southern Hemisphere, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil all witnessed historical heatwaves in January. Data over the past three decades showed that global summer temperatures are on the rise. It gets hotter year by year, and the high temperatures last longer.

Why are the frequency and intensity of these heatwaves increasing? Most meteorologists attribute it to climate change. The World Weather Attribution initiative has pointed out that the current heatwaves would be impossible if it weren't for climate change.

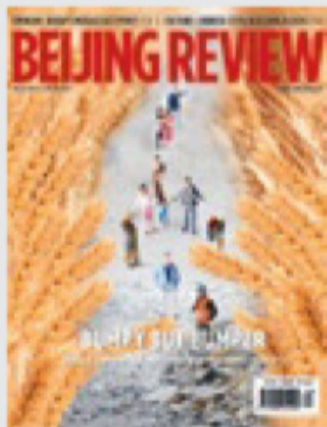
Heatwaves are taking a big toll on humans. According to the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, they have caused more than 1,700 deaths in Spain and Portugal this summer. A report released by the European Union's Copernicus Marine Service showed that

over the past two years Arctic sea ice extent has reached its lowest point on record, while sea levels continue to rise: 2.5 mm per year in the Mediterranean and 3.1 mm per year globally.

In this context, how to deal with climate change has become even more of a "hot" topic. On June 15, China released the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaption 2035, a guideline for its efforts up to 2035. It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sinks through long-term adjustments to energy and industrial sectors and natural ecosystems, so as to stabilize and reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases and reduce the speed of climate change. Meanwhile, China will continue to be an active player in the global process of climate change response and governance under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

Two years ago, China proposed its carbon peaking and neutrality goals. Neither the COVID-19 pandemic nor the economic downward pressure has undermined the country's determination.

Heatwaves are the most visible warning sign of global warming. Hopes are high that the international community will work in concert to tackle this pressing challenge before it is too late. **BR**



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CANADA.....CAD2.60 SWITZERLAND.....CHF2.60
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BADGE OF HONOR

President Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, poses for a group photo with August 1 Medal recipients Nie Haisheng (left), Qian Qihu (second right) and Du Fuguo (right) at an award ceremony in Beijing on July 27.

The medal is the highest honor awarded to individual members of the Chinese military.

This is the second time that the medal was conferred. The first group of 10 recipients was awarded in July 2017.



Culinary Delight

A competitor plates a dish during a cooking competition in Chongqing on July 22.

Youth Forum

The World Youth Development Forum, held in Beijing on July 21-23, discussed topics such as youth employment and entrepreneurship, climate change and green development, digital economy, as well as high-quality education, according to the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China.

Initiated by the All-China Youth Federation, the forum was attended online or offline by over 100 guests from China and abroad and nearly 2,000 youth representatives. Guests from international organizations, enterprises, and universities delivered speeches about concrete measures to support youth employment and entrepreneurship in different

regions and fields.

Yu Jiadong, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, called for global cooperation in tackling problems of youth employment.

Scientific Expedition

Chinese scientists launched an expedition in the headwater regions of the Yangtze and Lancang rivers in Qinghai Province on July 24, to investigate the regions' water resources and ecological environment.

The expedition will conduct scientific investigations into the water resources, river hydrology, water ecology, glaciers, soil erosion and permafrost of the regions, according to the Changjiang River Scientific Research Institute (CRSRI) of the

Changjiang Water Resources Commission, which is leading the expedition.

Glacier investigation is one of the key missions of the expedition. Based on previous remote-sensing monitoring, the scientists will use technologies including ground-penetrating radar to measure glacier thickness and calculate ice volume, according to the CRSRI.

This expedition will also focus on observing the carbon stock of wetlands in the headwaters of the Yangtze River.

As an important part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau ecosystem, the headwater regions of the Yangtze and Lancang rivers have a significant impact on maintaining the security of water resources, biodiversity protection and

ecosystem security.

It will further the understanding of the current state of the ecological environment in the headwater regions of the two rivers, and will provide basic data for research projects including the protection of the Yangtze River and the construction of Sanjiangyuan National Park, said CRSRI's chief engineer Xu Ping.

Medical Reform

China's medical reform in the past 10 years has significantly eased the financial burdens for patients, according to the National Health Commission.

At a press conference on July 22, the commission said that as the country's medical and healthcare system reform proceeds, the percentage of personal expenditure within China's total medical and healthcare expenditure has dropped from 34.3 percent in 2012 to 27.7 percent today.

The country has taken a number of measures to increase people's access to quality and reasonably priced medical services. For instance, the central authorities have carried out several centralized bulk-buying programs for drugs and high-value medical consumables.

The programs have successfully brought down medical costs for patients and have so far helped save approximately 300 billion yuan (\$44.43 billion) in medical insurance costs and patient expenditure.

Improving Services

China will further facilitate village residents' access to everyday services such as mail and telecom services, accelerate rural road construction, toilet renovation and sewage treatment, and

improve rural living environment, according to a press conference by the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) on July 26.

The MCA, together with other authorities and departments, has released a guideline on improving comprehensive services provided at the village level.

The guideline specifies efforts to advance the standardization of village clinics, and improve public health and basic medical care services; to further build the medical service system, employment and social insurance public service system; and to improve social service provision at the village level.

It also outlines efforts to optimize the management of public affairs and charity at the village level, and guide villagers and private entities to further develop the rural service industry that ranges from retail, catering, and hotels to hairdressing.

Homegrown Helicopter

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) granted certification to the Z15 helicopter, the country's first homegrown, medium-sized helicopter model for civil use on July 26.

The latest move marked the successful completion of the development of the Z15, paving the way for the helicopter's market entry, according to the Aviation Industry Corp. of China (AVIC).

The Z15, also known as the AC352, was developed by AVIC Harbin Aircraft Industry Group Co. Ltd. under a cooperation program between AVIC and Airbus Helicopters. It can carry up to 16 passengers with a 7.5-ton maximum take-off weight and a maximum range of 850 km.

The helicopter uses the WZ16 engine jointly developed by the Aero Engine Corp. of China and Safran Helicopter Engines.

"Based on the innovative development of China's civil helicopter industry, the Z15 project highlights independent innovation and high-level international cooperation, and deep integration with the global aviation industry," said Yin Shijun, the CAAC chief engineer.

Fewer Traffic Accidents

China saw a significant drop in the number of deadly traffic accidents in the past decade, the Ministry of Public Security said on July 25.



Bumper Harvest

Farmers harvest citron daylily, an edible flower, in Yunzhou District, Datong, Shanxi Province on July 27. The district has increased the planting area of the plant to increase farmers' income.

The number of traffic accidents involving three or more deaths declined 59.3 percent from 2012, said Li Jiangping, head of the ministry's traffic management bureau, at a press conference.

Alcohol-related traffic accidents with casualties have dropped by tens of thousands since China criminalized drunk driving in 2011, Li said, noting

that the decline is significant, given that the total number of motor vehicles across China rose by 89 percent and that of drivers by 123 percent during the period.

Most people chose to use designated driver services after drinking, with the number of orders for such services hitting an annual average of 200 million, data from the ministry showed.



A Digital Presentation

A staff member displays a smartphone application that provides a virtual tour of the Great Wall during the Global Digital Economy Conference in Beijing on July 28. The conference, running from July 28 to 30, showcased the latest achievements in the digital economy.

Industrial Profits

Profits of major industrial firms rose 1 percent year on year in the first half of 2022, official data showed on July 27.

Industrial firms each with annual main business revenue of at least 20 million yuan (\$2.97 million) saw their combined profits exceeding 4.27 trillion yuan (\$631.9 billion) during the period, the National Bureau of Statistics said.

The combined revenues of those firms went up 9.1 percent from a year ago to 65.41 trillion yuan (\$9.6 trillion), and 16 out of 41 industries saw growth in profits in the period.

In June alone, their profits went up 0.8 percent year on year, reversing declines in April and May, the data showed.

Manufacturing Progress

In the first half of the year, the value-added output of the

manufacturing sector accounted for 28.8 percent of the country's GDP, up 1.4 percentage points from 2021, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology showed.

Manufacturing investment climbed 10.4 percent year on year during the same period.

In the second quarter alone, manufacturing investment grew 7.4 percent, 3.2 percentage points higher than the growth rate of fixed assets investment nationwide, according to the data.

Hi-tech manufacturing, which saw its value-added output increase 9.6 percent year on year in the January-June period, was a major force pushing the manufacturing sector's high-quality development.

Land-Sea Trade Corridor

The New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor saw 379,000 twenty-foot equivalent unit

containers transported by rail-sea transport freight trains in the first six months of the year, up 33.4 percent year on year, according to the China Railway Nanning Group Co. Ltd.

Launched in 2017, the trade and logistics passage was jointly built by western Chinese provincial-level regions and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

With Chongqing as the transportation hub, the corridor uses ports in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region's Beibu Gulf to reach ports in Singapore and other ASEAN countries and links China-Europe freight trains setting off from many western Chinese cities before heading to Central Asia, South Asia and Europe. It has expanded its reach to 319 ports in 107 countries and regions.

The trade volume between the Chinese regions and cities along the corridor and ASEAN rose from \$58.9 billion in 2017

to \$107.7 billion in 2021, official data showed.

New State Firm

China Mineral Resources Group Ltd. was inaugurated in Beijing on July 25, a major move by the country to guarantee the supply of important minerals by making good use of the domestic and international markets and resources.

With registered capital of 20 billion yuan (\$2.97 billion), the wholly state-owned and centrally administered company will engage in the exploration of mineral resources, ore mining, import and export of minerals, as well as supply chain management services, investment activities and asset management services, according to business data platform Tianyancha.

PV Growth

The photovoltaic (PV) sector posted robust growth in the first

NUMBERS

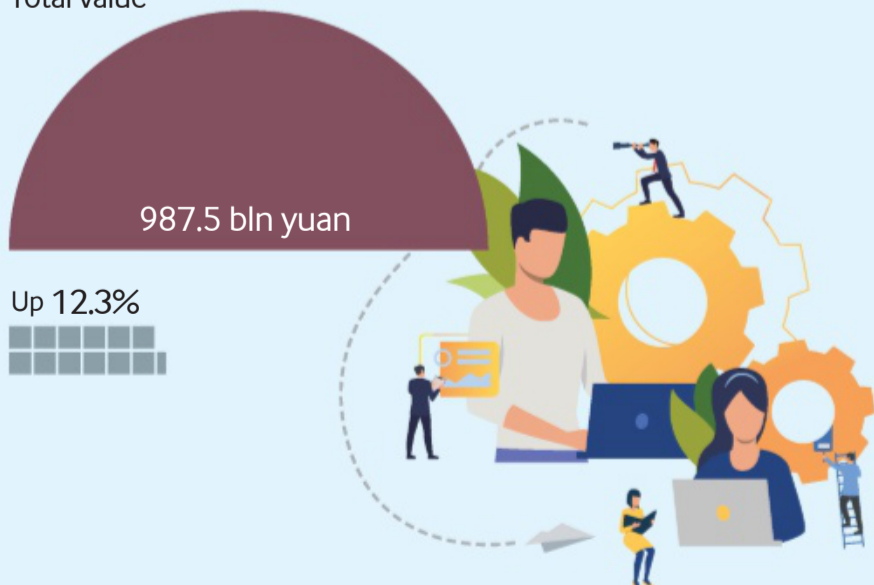
(\$1=6.74 yuan as of July 28)

China's Service Outsourcing Industry in H1 2022

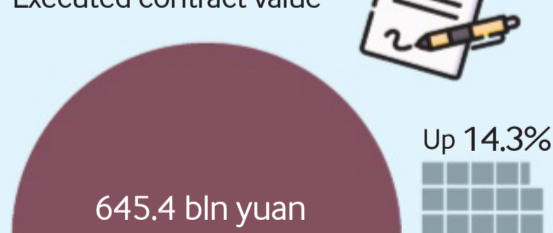
(All growth rates are y.o.y.)

Service outsourcing contracts inked by Chinese firms

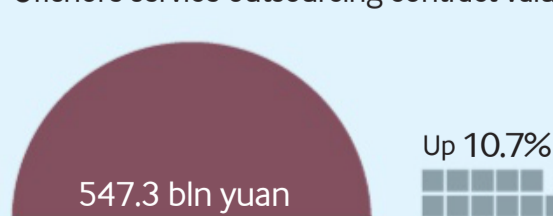
Total value



Executed contract value



Offshore service outsourcing contract value



Service outsourcing executed contract value

With members of the RCEP
87.7 bln yuan



With the United States
70.9 bln yuan



With the European Union
47.9 bln yuan



half of the year with major links of the industrial chain registering year-on-year growth of over 45 percent.

The half-year output of polysilicon, wafers, cells and modules expanded 53.4 percent, 45.5 percent, 46.6 percent and 54.1 percent year on year, respectively, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

The country's PV exports totaled roughly \$25.9 billion during the January-June period, surging 113.1 percent over one year ago.

Expressway Network

China has made solid progress in building a national road network to improve interregional transport layout and increase traffic capacity, with its expressways linking about 95 percent of the population, official data showed.

At present, the expressway network covers 98.8 percent of

cities with urban populations of over 200,000 and prefecture-level administrative centers, and links approximately 88 percent of county-level regions, Wang Tai, an official with the Ministry of Transport, told a press conference on July 25.

National highways also largely cover administrative areas at and above the county level and border ports open all year round, Wang said.

As of the end of last year, China had built 117,000 km of national expressways and seen 257,700 km of national highways open to traffic.

The country aims to build national roads with a total length of about 461,000 km, consisting of 162,000 km of expressways and 299,000 km of highways, by 2035, according to a circular released earlier this year.

Services Trade

The volume of China's cross-border trade in services has

surpassed the pre-pandemic level seen in 2019, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said on July 22.

The COVID-19 pandemic has weighed on China's cross-border travel, but the recovery of other parts of the foreign trade in services was relatively fast, Wang Chunying, deputy director of the administration, said at a press conference.

The country's cross-border services trade balance recovered to the 2019 level last year, and the figure climbed 26 percent year on year in the first quarter of 2022, Wang said.

Both the income and the expenditure of China's trade in services have seen growing momentum this year, and the deficit has further narrowed, she said.

Cash-Pooling Program

China will expand cash-pooling services for multinational companies to integrate domestic and

foreign currency management on a larger scale, the People's Bank of China and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said on July 22.

Shanghai, Guangdong and Shaanxi provinces, and some other regions will be added to the pilot program to facilitate the use and management of cross-border capital.

New policies introduced include increasing pilot areas and companies, allowing multinationals to handle centralized receipts and payments of domestic and foreign currencies in China for their overseas subsidiaries, and further streamlining yuan-denominated cross-border receipts and payments for multinationals.

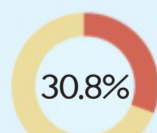
The program was first launched in Beijing and the southern economic powerhouse Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, in March 2021. Since then, cross-border capital managed by the program has amounted to nearly \$50 billion.

Of private enterprises

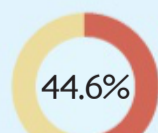
Of foreign-funded enterprises

111.1
bln yuan

160.7
bln yuan



of the total



of the total



14.4 mln people

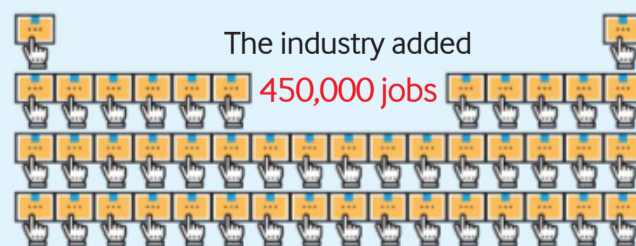


work in China's service outsourcing industry

⚙️ = 1 mln

The industry added

450,000 jobs



Up 7.9%

👉 = 10,000

(Source: Ministry of Commerce)



CUBA

People celebrate the National Rebellion Day at a rally in Cienfuegos on July 26. On July 26, 1953, fighters led by Fidel Castro attacked the Cuban army garrisons in the cities of Santiago de Cuba and Bayamo, paving the way for the eventual victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959



JORDAN

A volunteer lights a torch at the opening ceremony of the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts in Jerash on July 27. Founded in 1981, the annual event features shows performed by Jordanian and foreign artists



THE PHILIPPINES

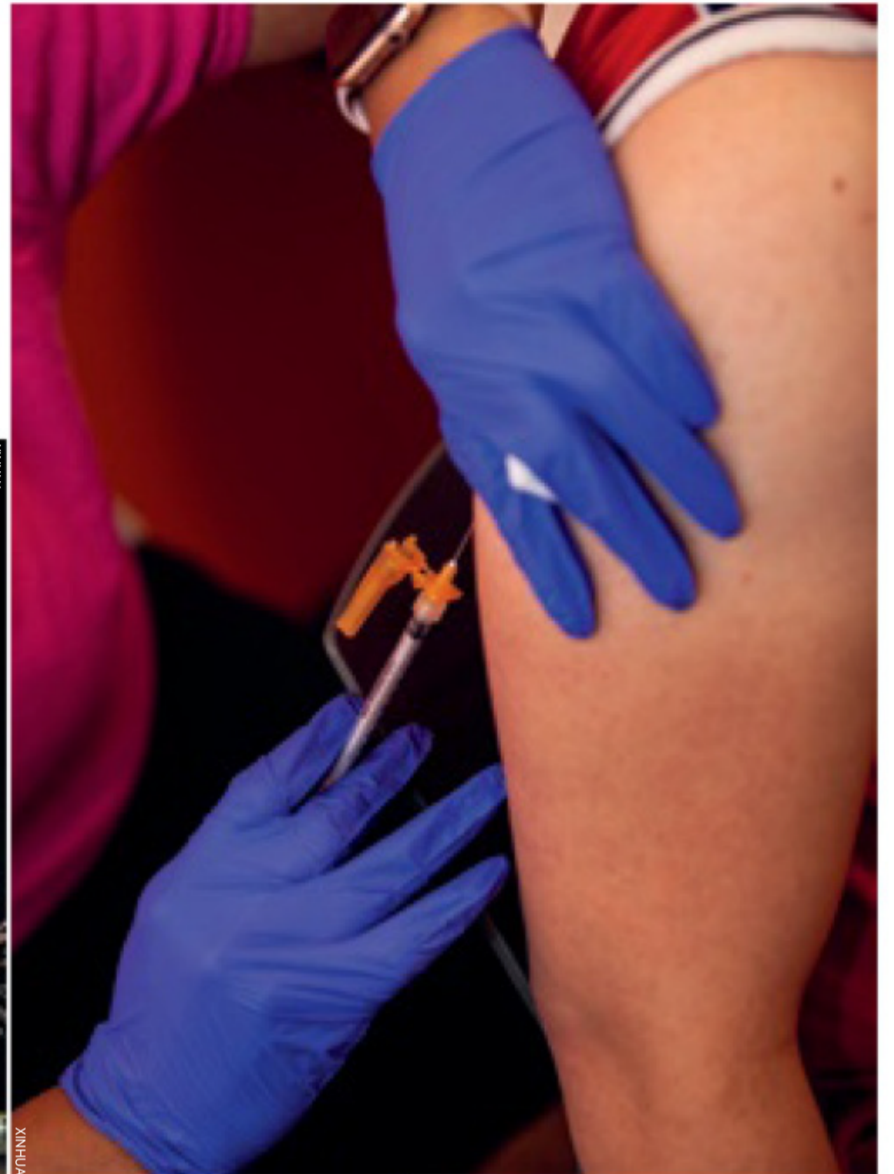
Emergency responders evacuate injured personnel after an earthquake in Abra Province on July 27. The 7-magnitude earthquake hit the nation's largest and most populous island, Luzon, killing at least five people and injuring some 60 others





CROATIA

Fireworks are seen during the inauguration ceremony of the Peljesac Bridge in Komarna on July 26. The China-built bridge connects the two sections of Croatia's coastline for the first time



UNITED STATES

A medical worker administers a dose of monkeypox vaccine to a resident in Chicago on July 25. The United States had more than 3,500 confirmed monkeypox cases as of July 26



INDIA

Droupadi Murmu is sworn in as the 15th president of India on July 25. Murmu is the first tribal woman and youngest ever person to assume the country's top constitutional post



↓ VETERAN DIPLOMAT'S UN ROLE

UN Secretary General António Guterres appointed **Li Junhua** as the next under secretary general for economic and social affairs on July 26.

Li, who is currently ambassador of China to Italy and San Marino, will succeed Liu Zhenmin. Guterres expressed gratitude to Liu for his commitment and dedicated service to the world body in a statement issued by the secretary general's office.

Born in 1962, Li began his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 1985. He has served in many capacities, including as the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar, and as director general of the MFA Department of International Organizations and Conferences.

He has a master's degree in international public policy from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in the U.S.



A City Steeped in History and Culture

Beijing Youth Daily
July 27

Recent years have seen a lot of bookstores in residential communities across Beijing revamped and turned into trendy saloons, where readers can enjoy a cup of tea while they read. These saloons also host events such as book clubs and science lectures, enabling residents to attend more cultural activities near home and immerse themselves in the city's

intensely cultural atmosphere.

Beijing is a modern metropolis boasting numerous historical and cultural landmarks. History and culture are close at hand for residents. Community cultural centers created by renovating abandoned factories, cultural saloons converted from bookstores and art exhibitions have made their daily lives more colorful.

Communities, as the basic units of a city, can play a big role in satisfying residents' recreational needs and in enriching the whole city's cultural aura, thus increasing their sense of belonging.

Backstop for Environmental Protection

Outlook Weekly
July 25

A clean environment with blue skies, crystal-clear waters and green mountains is the common aspiration of the whole nation. Harmonious coexistence between humans and nature

“China’s defense building is aimed at upholding our sovereignty, security and development interests. It is legitimate, reasonable and beyond reproach.”

Wang Wenbin, spokesperson for China’s Foreign Ministry, at a press briefing on July 22

“Inflation has broadened in many economies, reflecting the impact of cost pressures from disrupted supply chains and historically tight labor markets.”

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, at a virtual press conference on July 26

constitutes an important part of China's development philosophy.

Introduced in 2015, the Central Government's inspection of ecological and environmental protection efforts is ensuring officials who do not take environmental protection seriously are held accountable. Many important environmental problems related to rapid economic growth had remained unsolved until the introduction of Central Government oversight.

China is a big country in geographical size, and regions differ from each other in resources, environmental capacity and growth stages. Thus, it's necessary for the central inspection team to adopt differentiated measures to address their issues.

Of the 287,000 pollution-related complaints that the Central Government has received, 285,000 cases have been solved or are in the process of being solved. In recent years, improvements to the environment have become easily perceptible by the public.

To protect the environment is to protect productivity. In this sense, a good environment is the guarantee for long-term high-quality growth.

Keep the Road Clean

Yangcheng Evening News
July 26

As COVID-19 resurgences came under control, this summer, the 561-km-long Dushanzi-Kuqa Highway in Xinjiang, which connects several well-known scenic spots and has been labeled the most beautiful road in China, has again become a hotspot for tourists.

However, rubbish along the road has somewhat dampened others' passion for visiting it. Particularly in parking lots and rest stops, plastic bags and bottles can be seen everywhere. Mostly, the garbage is left by self-driving travelers, who just

throw rubbish wherever they like.

The influx of tourists to this region is helping the local economy, but it is also posing a serious environmental threat. Teams of cleaners are responsible for maintaining the road; however, its length and the amount of rubbish being left make it difficult for them to complete their task each day.

In order to reduce the problem, local tourism authorities should consider capping the number of tourists, increasing the number of trash and recycling receptacles along the route, and take more steps to remind tourists not to litter. In extreme cases, tourists should be added to a tourism blacklist for their transgressions.

NEW DISEASE CONTROL CHIEF

Shen Hongbing, an epidemiologist and oncologist, was named the new director general of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC).

Shen, 58, who was former president of Nanjing Medical University in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, succeeded virologist George F. Gao, who had led the China CDC since 2017.

Shen is a member of the prestigious Chinese Academy of Engineering, which has nine academic divisions including medicine and health engineering.

The China CDC operates under the National Administration of Disease Prevention and Control, a vice ministerial-level government department set up in May last year amid the COVID-19 pandemic to better fend off threats of infectious diseases. Shen is also deputy head of the administration.



“Seeking absolute security by using one's advantageous position can only lead to a greater security dilemma.”

Geng Shuang, China's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at a UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East, on July 26

“The youth needs wisdom and courage drawn from the rich history and cultural heritage of these two nations, to continue to make relations healthier.”

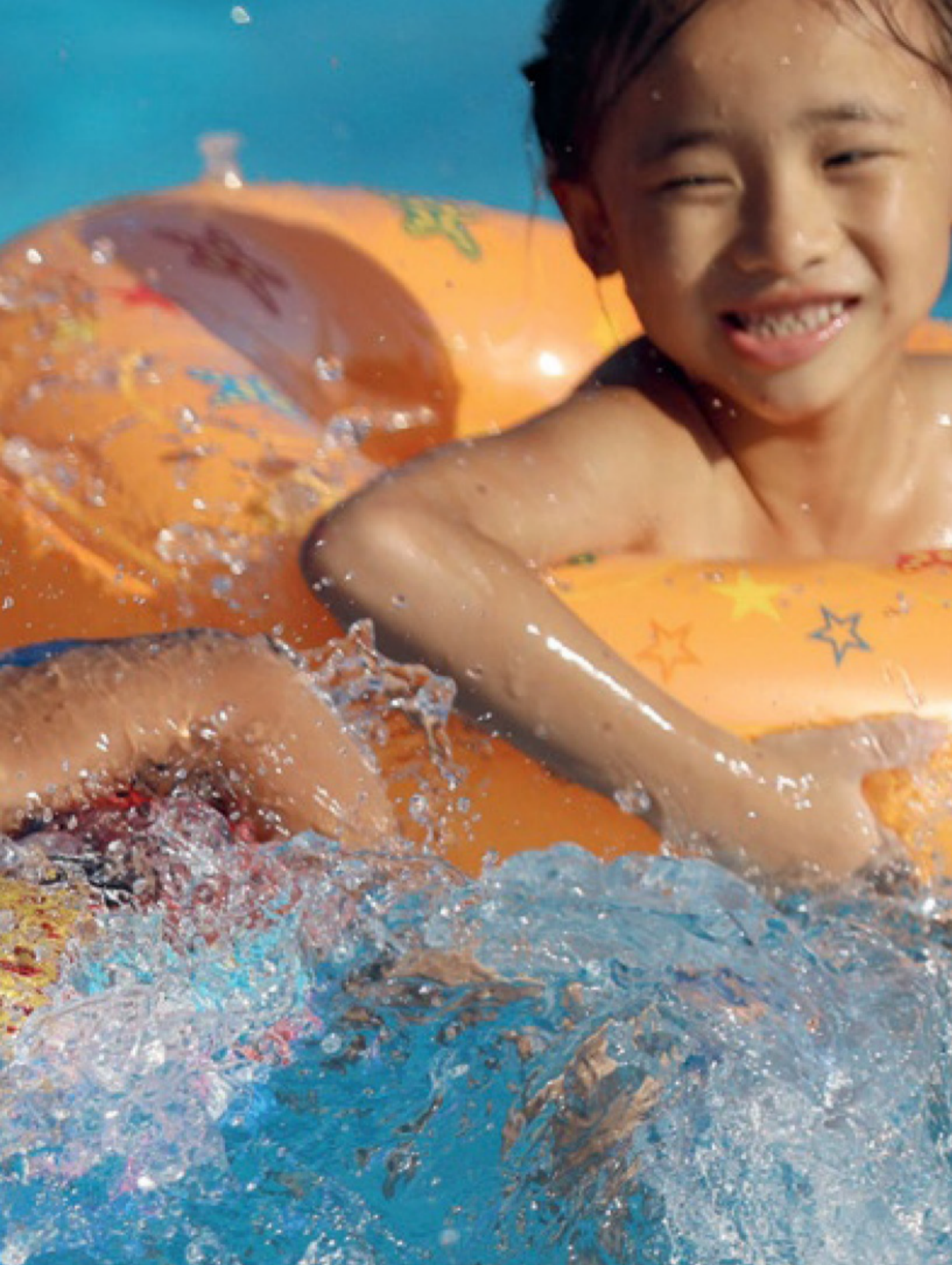
Nishith Shah, founder and Principal of the India China Academy in Mumbai, at the China-India Youth Dialogue, on July 25



COVER STORY

TURNING DOWN THE HEAT

Persistent high temperatures sweeping across China bring changes to life and business By Lu Yan



Children swim at a water park in Yongzhou, Hunan Province, on July 23

On July 19, the First Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, received a patient who vomited about four to five mouthfuls of blood, totaling nearly 1,000 ml. “He was already in the early stage of shock. Fortunately, he was rescued in time,” Ma Zhibin, a gastroenterologist at the hospital, told local news agency Harbin Television Station.

The 38-year-old man had been in good physical condition. But after prolonged exposure to the hot summer sun and then drinking a bottle of iced beverage in one gulp, he felt uncomfortable. His condition deteriorated soon, so he was rushed to the emergency room.

The doctor said icy drinks or irritating foods, such as spicy or greasy dishes, quickly entering the digestive tract can cause a strong spasm of blood vessels and mucosa, which might damage the mucosa and even lead to a heart attack or other life-threatening consequences.

In recent years, related stories in many regions of China have made “extreme hot weather” the most

searched hashtag. National Climate Center (NCC) monitoring showed that from early June to mid-July, on national average, the number of high-temperature days (above 35 degrees Celsius) was 5.3, 2.4 days more than the same period of usual years and the most in the same period since 1961.

Sweating it out

The globe just had the third warmest June on record, according to the European Union’s Copernicus Climate Change Service, with widespread episodes of extreme heat. In China, new high temperature records were set at more than 70 of the 2,400 national meteorological observation stations, with temperatures rising to as high as 44 degrees Celsius.

According to the NCC analysis, since the beginning of the 21st century, large-scale sustained high-temperature events in China occurred in 2003, 2013 and 2017. Overall, this year’s high-temperature events started earlier than in those three years, but the duration is currently shorter. Although the highest temperature at a single station was not as severe and high as those in 2017, it exceeded those in 2003 and 2013.

Large-scale high-pressure anomalies are the most direct cause of the recent extreme high temperatures, and the degree of abnormality will be determined after more evaluation of historical average conditions, according to Wang Jun, an associate professor with the Institute of Atmospheric Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

“At present, the extreme weather in many parts of the world occurs in the context of global warming. However, several extremely hot weather occurrences ▶▶

do not necessarily mean that global warming is intensifying,” Wang told *China Newsweek*. “But one thing is almost certain: With further global warming, the probability and intensity of extreme weather will increase, and extreme heat may become a norm.”

The NCC said the heat wave has affected more than 900 million people on more than half of the nation’s land. The term thermoplegia is drawing increasing public attention. In Zhejiang and Sichuan provinces where the highest temperatures surpassed 40 degrees Celsius, at least six people have been diagnosed with this severest form of heatstroke, which can cause rapid heartbeat, dizziness, headache, shortness of breath, or even death.

This illness usually occurs among infants, the elderly, sports enthusiasts and those who work outdoors, said Yu Li, head of the Department of Critical Care Medicine at the Central Hospital of Wuhan in Hubei Province.

Cooling down

Liu Ning is a food delivery rider working for Meituan Waimai, a leading food delivery service platform, in Beijing. “Summer is a busy time for us,” Liu told *Beijing Review*. According to a report released by the company in July, after 8 p.m. is the peak period for orders of ice cream, cold beverages and cold beer. Nationwide ice cube sales on the platform increased by 182 percent during some of the hottest days compared with the same period last year, and the number of merchants selling ice cubes increased by nearly 90 percent.

Liu wears UV protection arm sleeves, a motorbike helmet and a T-shirt every workday, sometimes all day. “The hotter it gets, the more

orders we get. So more income also means more sweat,” he said, adding that he always packs wet tissues with mint or alcohol, which give him seconds of coolness when wiping away sweat. Although tipping is not a common practice in Chinese culture, sometimes Liu receives tips from customers who tell him to buy a bottle of water or an ice cream. In Jiangsu Province, the government has built stations with charging units, refrigerators and microwave ovens for outdoor workers to rest, and have a sip of water or a snack.

A national regulation jointly released by several government departments in 2012 stipulates that employers should limit outdoor work to six hours on days with a daily maximum temperature above 37 degrees Celsius and that such work should not occur on days when the daily maximum temperature exceeds 40 degrees Celsius.

The regulation also forbids employers from deducting or reducing the wages of laborers if they stop working or shorten working hours due to high temperatures.

Authorities in many provincial-level regions have mandated employers provide several hundred yuan (usually under \$50) per month as an allowance to employees for working during the summer months. The specific amounts differ with different temperatures and between indoor and outdoor employees.

Although some regions have raised the allowance

in the past couple of years, many wish to see increases match rising consumer prices. “Now even a watermelon can cost more than 20 yuan (\$2.96). I think my subsidy—160 yuan (\$23.66) a month, should be raised,” a sanitation worker in Beijing surnamed Zhang told the *Workers’ Daily*.

“The allowance should be adjusted promptly according to factors such as economic and social development and wage growth. A dynamic growth mechanism for the allowance should be established,” said Li Haiming, an associate professor with the Law School of the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing who specializes in labor and social security laws.

Li emphasized that employers should continue to invest in ventilation, cooling equipment and high-temperature labor protection supplies.

Moreover, workers who suffer from heatstroke due to working in the heat and are diagnosed with occupational illnesses are entitled



A sanitation worker receives tea from a volunteer at a rest station set up to help outdoor workers cope with the heat in Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, on July 19



A night bazaar in Guiyang, Guizhou Province, on July 21

to work-related injury insurance benefits, based on the regulation.

Hot businesses

Rising temperatures also stimulate consumption of the general public and the creativity of business people. Water parks have recently become popular in Chongqing, which is nicknamed a “Furnace City” for its notoriously high summer temperatures. To attract more visitors, the parks arrange aquashows and music festivals. Some parks even place mahjong tables in shallow pools, allowing players sitting in basins filled with ice and water to wallow in the coolness while enjoying a game with friends.

Around the country, night bazaars, which are usually held in front of shopping malls, in long

alleys or around scenic spots and historical sites, are also crowded on hot summer nights. Usually running from 7 p.m. until midnight, the bazaars feature neon lights, street artists, local snacks, handmade items and novelties, and sometimes games such as ring toss.

Several pet stores in Changsha, Hunan Province, and Nanjing, Jiangsu, two of China’s hottest cities, have introduced foster care services. Pets can enjoy bathing, air-conditioned rooms, and refreshing snacks for hours.

Pet cooling mats, beds and scarfs, and pet pools are popular in online and offline stores. “In July, the sales of such products tripled that of last year,” Liang Shuyi, a pet store owner in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, told *Beijing Review*.

Sales of air conditioners have been on the rise in some cities. Suning, a large online and offline electric appliance retailer with over 10,000 physical stores nationwide, said in a report that from mid-June to early July, air conditioner sales in its outlets surged 122 percent year on year, and refrigerator and

freezer sales grew with a year-on-year increase of 98 percent. Electric fans were also popular with many customers.

Suning’s data also showed that many households in China’s cooler northern and western provinces, like Hebei and Shanxi, purchased their first air conditioner in June.

The hot days have not stopped young people from enjoying outdoor sports. On e-commerce platform Vip.com, searches for products related to cycling, frisbee and squash surged in July, and so did those for sunscreens, masks, hydration creams and after-sun skin repair lotions. **BR**

Copyedited by G.P. Wilson
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GREEN ACTION

The 2022 World Youth Development Forum's thematic forum on Climate Action and Green Development took place in Beijing on July 22. The event was jointly organized by the All-China Youth Federation and Tsinghua University with assistance from the College Alliance for Youth Ambassadors. Officials and scholars provided insights on climate change and China's green development. Edited excerpts of their views follow:



Li Gao
Director
General of
the Climate
Change
Department

of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China

Green and low-carbon development is key to addressing climate change, a serious challenge facing the whole world. Over recent years, China has continued improving its national strategy on climate change, promoted industrial restructuring, enhanced energy conservation and efficiency of use, reformed market mechanisms and expanded forest carbon sinks.

China has seen rapid energy transition. The share of coal in primary energy consumption in the country dropped from 72.4 percent in 2005 to 56 percent in 2021, and that of non-fossil energy rose to 16.6 percent last year. China's installed capacity of hydro, wind, solar and biomass power ranks first in the world. It has been promoting industrial restructuring, boosting energy conservation and reducing carbon emissions in key industries. The output and sales of new-energy vehicles in China have ranked

among top in the world for years.

China has also improved its carbon sinks. Its forest coverage has continued expanding for more than 30 consecutive years, accounting for over 25 percent of the world's new afforested areas. It has proposed an action plan for protecting, preserving and restoring 70 billion trees within the next decade. China has also fulfilled the target of cutting carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 40 to 45 percent by 2020 from those in 2005. In July 2021, China launched the world's largest national carbon market to control greenhouse gas emissions through market mechanisms and promote green transformation of enterprises.

China has contributed to global climate governance, promoting the building of a fair global climate governance system and contributing to the launch of the Paris Agreement. It has proposed the goals of peaking its carbon emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060 in line with the agreement, boosted South-South cooperation, and provided support for other developing countries on addressing climate change.

For the years to come, China will continue to prioritize ecological protection, and drive green transformation in more socioeconomic fields.



Razan Al Mubarak
President of International
Union for Conservation of
Nature

Protecting the diversity of life on the planet is one of our greatest challenges. The diversity of life on earth ranges from the smallest insects to the largest

mammals, the plants, the fungi and other animals. These are all the building blocks of life on earth.

Nature not only provides us with the foundation for life, but it also makes life worth living. However, biodiversity and nature are under immense threats. According to reports from the UN and many other international organizations, we are losing up to 1 million species through extinction. It has been estimated that we are losing 10,000 species per year. Up to 80 percent of this loss is due to habitat loss. This habitat loss is primarily driven by agriculture. Humans really need to change the way of producing food, living and working to protect the nature that they very much depend on.

Now, our generation is taking decisions for our great grandchildren and grandchildren. We need to find a way to build innovative solutions, institutions and forms where issues, challenges and actions are taken by both generations, the one of today and the one of tomorrow. We need to bridge the gap between the generations and benefit from this collective wisdom.

Perhaps the previous generations are better at this because of the connection with nature. As such, there is an imperative for the young to reconnect with nature. The biggest divide that we are observing is a divide between urban and country living. The younger generation is overwhelmingly

moving toward a greater urbanization and consequently a disconnection from nature. It is imperative to integrate nature in the development of the new green economy.



Erik Berglof
Chief Economist
of the Asian
Infrastructure
Investment
Bank

China has made efforts to reach its carbon peak and neutrality targets. It is about setting targets for individual economic entities at all levels of the economy. The country has a well-developed planning system and it is very much in high gear to achieve the targets.

China launched an emissions trading system last year. Another element that could be developed even more and complement the market is green financial governance. It is about how to use regulation and financial incentives to encourage a change in behavior to go through the financial institutions. The right balance over time and across sectors and regions should be struck. That is the fundamental challenge that China is facing in trying to achieve its carbon peak and neutrality targets.

It is very important that governments at all levels, regions and sectors have targets, and design mechanisms for risk sharing between financial institutions and emitting enterprises. It is also suggested that China establish a net zero policy committee to strengthen accountability and encourage evolution and innovation under green governance. It's a way to monitor and make sure that these

policies are actually implemented on the ground when we look at international experience.

China's authorities are supposed to encourage local governments to publish carbon peak and neutrality plans, engage with peers inside and outside China and use regulation and industry standards to complement traditional planning. The financial sector needs to be deeply involved in shaping the carbon market. All those are important for making the market work. There are also opportunities for individual organizations to develop internal shadow carbon pricing.

China has seen positive development in terms of green finance. Today, China has a very significant market for sustainable finance that needs to be developed more, and there are a lot of opportunities for using subsidies to promote innovation and implementation of new technologies. Much of the net zero transition will be about putting new technology in place. Not only China, but also many other countries, rely heavily on that. New technologies need to be put into the market.

The financial system also plays a very important role. The People's Bank of China has been very much leading on this to try to get financial institutions to know what climate risk they have in their lending and investment.

The targets are both important, but the 2060 carbon neutrality target should override. National support for embedding targets at local level should be provided, which decides the ceiling for the 2030 carbon peak target. China is also expected to continue to participate in the global climate agenda, as it cannot solve its own climate issues if global challenges are not solved.



Li Zheng
Executive Vice President
of the Institute of Climate
Change and Sustainable
Development at Tsinghua
University

Countries have developed consensus on carbon neutrality and green development. Up to now, about 140 countries have announced their carbon neutrality targets, which cover 88 percent of global emissions, 90 percent of the global economy and 85 percent of the global population, to deal with sustainability challenges, including climate change.

China plans to peak its carbon emissions before **2030** and achieve carbon neutrality before **2060**

China has been benefiting from green development. From 2005 to 2021, the country's economy increased by more than 500 percent. In the same period, its energy consumption and carbon emissions increased by around 100 percent and 72 percent, respectively.

China is steadily promoting the use of green energy. By the end of 2020, China's installed capacity of photovoltaic (PV) and wind power reached over 253 GW and 290 GW, respectively. By 2030, it is going to add installed wind and PV capacity of at least 1,200 GW, and increase that of hydro power by 80 GW. According to an estimation by the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University, the green transformation may cost up to 140 trillion yuan (\$20.7 trillion), but it will bring high-quality economic growth. **BR**

WHY SOME PEOPLE TURN A BLIND EYE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

By Shankai Wei

Climate change continues to be a global governance problem. According to data from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the global atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration reached 417.7 parts per million (ppm) in January, compared to 316 ppm in 1960.

We see daily news reports about the primary and secondary effects of climate change, but many people, including former U.S. President Donald Trump, deny climate change or refuse to take any necessary action. Polarization over the issue exists and leads to emotional reactions and social divisiveness. Why have groups of people and governments turned a blind eye to climate change for so long and are only

now starting to respond?

It might be overly simplified to criticize the politicians' short-sightedness and to think that people who deny climate change are scientifically illiterate. Emotional reactions, no matter which side of the divide they're on, are the driving force behind polarization. Understanding the various roots leading to this blindness and exploring possible solutions are critical to address the issue.

A paradox

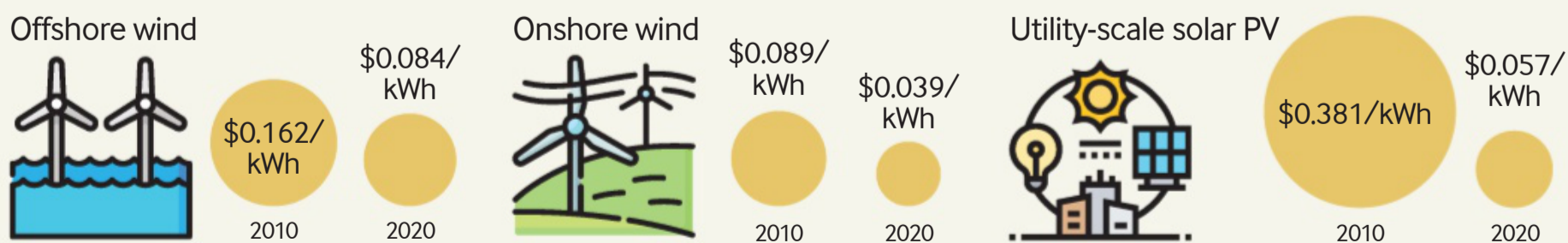
Blindness emerges firstly due to a lack of scientific knowledge and the tough processes of addressing the substantive reality of climate change. Human beings first realized climate change and its harm in 1957, when American scientist Roger Revelle discovered that the ocean couldn't absorb all the carbon dioxide released by human production activities. Therefore, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would rise sharply. Subsequently, the scientific community debated this issue, and climate change and its negative externalities weren't generally recognized until the 1980s.

However, in most cases, blindness refers not only to the people who don't know about climate change but particularly to people who refuse to accept what they've seen. It appears weird but reflects the limitation of human social cognitive processes.

Extreme climate events frequently happen, but for any one specific place, the possibility of such activity remains low. Based on the theoretical framework of human decision-making behavior in uncertain situations, which was jointly studied by Israeli psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky, we find that people usually "see" facts and make decisions based on their experiences and expectations. In other words, people might refuse to accept climate

Global Weighted-Average Levelized Cost of Electricity

(For Newly Commissioned Projects)



(Source: International Renewable Energy Agency; designed by Pamela Tobey)



A wind power facility in Yanyuan County, Sichuan Province, on June 20

change just because the related facts conflict with their intentions. “Allais paradox” is the phrase to describe the unintelligible choice.

Polarization toward climate change is deeply rooted in such a paradox; the reason that really stops people from accepting climate change is their own benefit and interest.

Economic costs

When we move our view from a domestic to a global level, another concern appears: the silence around climate change. After the hazards of climate change were clarified, from the mid-to-late 1980s to the mid-to-late 1990s, many governments and enterprises avoided discussing this issue.

Air is a borderless and global public resource. Countries that do not take actions to combat climate change can still enjoy the benefits of improved air that result from the policies adopted by other governments without paying the corresponding costs. Therefore, the free-rider problem in addressing climate change involves the fairness of countries enjoying the decisions of their global neighbors without contributing anything domestically.

The only way to solve this

problem is to propose laws and regulations that encourage those governments that refuse to accept climate change or that do not contribute to addressing it to be positive actors. It remains to be seen whether countries and governments will cooperate in this era of anti-globalization and a new cold war mentality.

Moreover, the economic costs of implementing climate action paid by states are different. Intrinsically, the right to carbon emissions is the right to development, and limiting carbon emissions means restricting one country’s economic development. For individuals, the right to carbon emissions is the right to enjoy comfort, and limiting carbon emissions means sacrificing an easier life. That’s because, in the mid-1990s, more than 85 percent of the energy consumption came from three types of carbon-emitting fossil fuels—oil, coal and natural gas. Relatively clean hydropower and nuclear power accounted for less than 15 percent, and renewable energy such as wind and photovoltaic (PV) power accounted for less than 1 percent.

It’s difficult to increase hydropower capacity due to the limitation of the natural environment. The disastrous accidents of Chernobyl, Three Mile Island and at other nuclear power plants have slowed the expansion of nuclear power. And the high cost of renewable energy limited its wide application.

If energy demand growth remains strong, carbon emission reduction policies will inevitably lead to insufficient energy supplies. Therefore, in the absence of low-cost alternative energy sources, their implementation will encounter difficulties. Although developed countries have indeed reduced carbon emissions in recent years, more of them have

achieved that through the transfer of energy-consuming industries overseas, which has also caused the problem of “carbon leakage.”

However, with the development of science and technology, the cost of renewable energy has dropped significantly, allowing the world to see the feasibility of carbon emission reduction (See graphic).

Renewable energy has become one of the low-cost power sources. Wind and PV energy accounted for 24 percent of China’s installed power generation capacity in 2020. It’s expected that by 2060 this proportion will be close to 80 percent, and coal power will be replaced entirely, which will give the rest of the world a smart solution to this problem.

In more than five decades, collective action on climate change at global level has become clearer. The process is complicated and costly; however, the efforts to reduce carbon emissions are being consolidated and will gradually change our life philosophy. **BR**

The author is a young scholar in Beijing conducting research on climate change
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SAVING THE PLANET TOGETHER

By George N. Tzogopoulos

The ongoing summer is demonstrating to the international community the practical consequences of climate change. Heatwaves hitting parts of China, for example, have led meteorological services to issue danger alerts. A similar situation is being monitored in Europe. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) statement on July 22, heatwaves caused more than 1,700 deaths in Spain and Portugal alone. Other countries such as Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland and the UK have also suffered.

The problem respects no borders. The United States is experiencing extremely high temperatures. This also is the case with Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Tunisia and others. Wildfires frequently erupt and expand under extreme heat conditions. An assessment of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service shows that France—as of July 24—was facing a severe forest fire situation in the southern mainland and Corsica. In Greece and Slovenia, firefighters were in a titanic battle to save citizens and green landscapes.

Droughts constitute another serious ramification. A few weeks ago, a drought emergency was declared in north Italy. Experts link this water crisis to the particularly dry and warm winter.

International cooperation is the

only way to address climate change. In November 2021, the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) bore some fruits as it led to the Glasgow Climate Pact. Among other things, world leaders not only reaffirmed the Paris Agreement goal of limiting the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, but also to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

China and the EU are playing a central role. Scholars calculate that they together account for approximately one third of global greenhouse gas emissions. Being key actors in addressing climate change, they are institutionalizing their collaboration. The April 2022 summit, which was held via teleconference due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, discussed the state of bilateral relations and areas of shared interest such as climate change. Leaders agreed to continue cooperation.

As a matter of fact, a special high-level dialogue on environment and climate has already convened three times since its launch in 2020. The last round was organized remotely on July 8. The official statement read that China would stand ready to work with the EU to further strengthen the policy coordination, enhance synergies on technology and innovation and focus on green and low-carbon transformation, and environmental protection. Vice President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, who represented the EU in the July dialogue, tweeted that there were many opportunities for the two sides to join forces, including on carbon markets, hydrogen, the reduction of methane emissions and biodiversity loss.

Biodiversity, in particular, is a theme of particular significance in China. In October 2021, Kunming hosted the first part of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15). The Chinese Government announced then the creation of a special fund worth \$232 million to help developing countries contribute

to biodiversity conservation. The second part of the conference will be hosted by Montreal, Canada, in December this year.

Dialogue always helps. These days, for instance, China is celebrating the first anniversary of its carbon emission trading market operation. The European expertise in creating and making such a scheme functional has been useful for China.

On the whole, China and the EU have set their own targets in reducing emissions. The former has announced its ambitious plan to become carbon free before 2060, after reaching a peak before 2030, whereas the latter is aiming at reducing 55 percent of emissions—compared to 1990 levels—by 2030 and at achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen has characterized China's goal as “encouraging” in her 2021 state of the union address.

High energy prices, however, already increasing months before the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, are posing serious dilemmas for several leaders. To strike a balance between a greener planet and energy security could be a tall order. When leaders work together, optimism is generated. **BR**

The author is EU-China Program director at the Centre International de Formation Européenne
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THE BALLOON ALSO RISES

Measuring global climate from the roof of the world

By Tao Xing

“Ready?”

“Ready.”

“Three, two, one, go!”

This exchange occurs twice per day at the Tuotuohe Weather Station, located high on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Immediately following the conversation, the station’s crew release a weather balloon that measures atmospheric pressure, temperature, humidity, and wind speed using a small expendable measuring device called a radiosonde.

Usually working in groups of three, the crew take turns releasing each balloon. Nights on the plateau dip well below freezing, so those on morning duty need to dress warmly in the pre-dawn hours as they inflate the balloon, debug the radar and radiosonde and release the balloon at 7:15 a.m. The station collects data from the balloon until it bursts at an altitude of around 30,000 meters, before the whole process begins again at 7:15 p.m.

Challenging the “forbidden zone”

The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, with an average altitude of 2,800-4,000 meters, is the highest plateau in the world, but it is the station’s location that presents unique challenges for



Qiao Wei releases a weather balloon in strong wind at the Tuotuohe Weather Station in Qinghai Province on June 28

the crew. It is situated in Tanggula Town, Golmud in Qinghai Province, on the northern slope of the Tanggula Mountains.

Tanggula means “mountain that eagles cannot fly over” in the Mongolian language, and the name was given not just for the mountain’s height, but for its harsh weather. The oxygen content of the air is less than 60 percent of that at sea level, the annual average temperature is 4.2 degrees Celsius below zero with a winter average of minus 25 degrees Celsius and extremes as low as minus 45.2 degrees Celsius. In addition, the annual average number of days with

strong winds is 168, and the average number of days with sandstorms is 11.

At an altitude of 4,539 meters, the station is the highest of its kind in the world applying radiosonde. Established in 1956, it was first located in another part of the Tanggula at an altitude of 5,051 meters, but was later moved to its current position as it is more suitable for observing and collecting data.

“Because of the low amount of oxygen in the air at the site, all 11 workers at the station are young adults in good physical condition,” Qiao Wei, second in charge at the station, told *Beijing Review*. “The oldest is 33.”

Thirty-year-old Qiao has worked on the plateau for nine years. Until 2017, he was part of the Wudaoliang Weather Station, which is 146 km away from Tuotuohe at an altitude of 4,614 meters. Automation of Wudaoliang in January 2018 led to its staff being relocated.

Meng Lijun, 23, is the youngest member of the team. Her father is now at another station in Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai, which is also at a high altitude. Her grandfather was also a meteorological worker.

“Their experiences have inspired me in some ways,” Meng told *Beijing Review*. She graduated from the electronic science and technology program at Southwest Forestry University in Kunming, Yunnan Province, last year and was taken on by the Golmud Meteorological Bureau. Like many other government agencies, the bureau requires new staff to work at grassroots posts for two to three years. Meng’s service at Tuotuohe started last August.

“When I knew that I had been assigned here, I was actually afraid



Qiao Wei (second right) and his colleagues observe data using a theodolite at the Tuotuohe Weather Station on August 19, 2021

as I heard that the weather here is bad,” Meng said. Many of her friends are surprised to find out she is living at Tuotuohe.

However, except for the first few weeks, when she found it hard to adjust to the weather and suffered from high altitude nosebleeds, Meng has been accustomed to the extreme living conditions. “The infrastructure here is better than expected,” she said.

According to Qiao, in the past, many daily necessities were in short supply. However, where once they collected water directly from the winter ice, the station is now equipped with a water purifier and drinking water is also brought in from outside. “The municipal, provincial and national meteorological agencies also try their best to provide us with the supplies we need,” Qiao said.

With the exception of the radiosonde, the station’s general data collection has been automated since 2014. It also has a device for releasing balloons automatically;

however, highly variable wind conditions make staff an indispensable part of the process. Qiao and Meng said they need to pay attention to the path of the balloon at the time they release it to ensure it flies within the desired range and sends back accurate data.

Commitments to climate

At the general debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2020, President Xi Jinping announced that China would peak its carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. The commitment demonstrates China’s determination to pursue green and low-carbon development and its sense of responsibility as a major country to actively tackle climate change and safeguard a bright future for humanity.

From the national strategy to very small personal actions, China and Chinese people are doing what they can to address climate change.

According to the China Meteorological News Press, China now has 120 meteorological stations applying radiosonde, of which 89 are open for global data exchange. The data they share accounts for 10 percent of the global total.

Climate data collected from high-altitude areas, for example, in Tuotuohe, is of particular importance to monitoring changes to glaciers and accumulated snow cover, as well as global climate change.

“The data we collect is sent to higher-level

agencies for further analysis and sharing,” Qiao said.

Due to its special geographical location, the data obtained in Tuotuohe is essential for studying the climate of the entire Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

Additionally, the data not only assists the operation of railways on the plateau and flights over the region, but also protects the safety of local herders. “If meteorologists can predict extreme weather through the data we collect and tell local people, then they can prepare in advance to reduce their losses,” Qiao explained. “These facts help me appreciate the importance of the work I do,” he added.

Between the establishment of the station on May 1, 1956 and the end of 2021, more than 47,000 balloons were released from Tuotuohe, providing hundreds of millions of pieces of data.

Qiao said his primary role is ensuring the accuracy of the data collected rather than analyzing it, so he doesn’t have solid evidence for climate change in hand. However, he has noticed that while there were few insects at the station in the early years, mosquitoes and spiders have now made the facility home. “I think it’s necessary to continue observing weather data to look for trends and hopefully find solutions,” he noted.

“If you interview us again in a few months, I won’t be the youngest one anymore. A number of people who were born in the 2000s will join us this year,” Meng said.

“The constant stream of fresh colleagues gives us the energy to continue undertaking our responsibilities,” Qiao concluded. **BR**

Role of Prosecutors

Enhanced legal supervision plays a significant role in promoting law-based governance

By Zhang Shasha

Huang Mou (alias) was the legal representative of a mold manufacturing company in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. “I thought everything was over when I was summoned by the police,” Huang said. “I knew they were investigating the illegal invoices.”

As Huang’s micro enterprise did not have the necessary permissions to issue official tax invoices, he used a company belonging to Zheng Peng (alias) to issue 210,000 yuan (\$31,101) worth of these invoices to customers.

“We found dozens of private enterprises [such as Huang’s] had purchased invoices from Zheng, so we immediately conducted a comprehensive assessment of the operations of these companies and then considered the necessity of prosecuting the people involved,” Huang Huihui, a prosecutor with the local people’s procuratorate, said.

After the review, the procuratorate concluded that owners of the 15 companies involved committed minor crimes that did not meet the standards for criminal punishment and therefore decided not to prosecute them. These business people were then transferred to the tax authority for administrative punishment.

“However, Zheng’s behavior of setting up a company to engage in illegal invoicing has caused great harm to society and should be severely punished,” the prosecutor said. Zheng was subsequently sentenced to 12 years in prison and fined 300,000 yuan (\$44,430).

Tempering justice with mercy and case impact assessment are among the new concepts and new measures procuratorial organs are incorporating into the handling of criminal

cases involving enterprises. “The policies and measures have played a significant role in optimizing the business environment,” Dai Yaping, President of Suzhou-based Tus-Design Group Co. Ltd., said.

In addition to safeguarding a sound business environment, procuratorial organs have contributed to the advance of law-based governance in China through strengthening legal supervision over the recent decade.

“Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, procuratorial organs have exercised legal supervision over criminal, civil, administrative and public

interest litigations in accordance with the law and provided a solid judicial guarantee for high-quality economic and social development,” Tong Jianming, Executive Deputy Procurator General of the Supreme People’s Procuratorate (SPP), said at a press conference on July 18. “We are committed to delivering fairness and justice in every single judicial case.”

According to the opinions on strengthening legal supervision by procuratorial organs in the new era issued by the CPC Central Committee in June 2021, people’s procuratorates are not only a part of China’s judiciary that ensures the uniform and strict enforcement of national laws, but also an important force to protect national and public interests.

Minor protection

A mock trial was held on June 17 at the education base jointly built by the No.4 Middle School in Xiangyang, Hubei Province, and the city’s procuratorate. Students of the school played the roles of the chief judge, judge, prosecutor, defender and defendant.

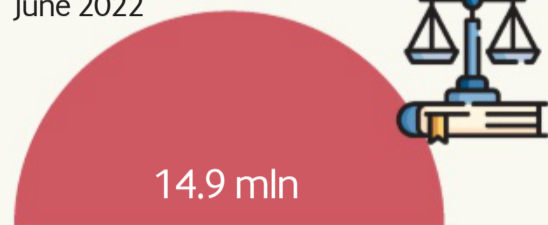
“The mock trial was based on an intentional jury case involving young students,” Liang Li, who has a dual identity as procurator general of the procuratorate of Xiangyang and vice principal for rule of law education programs at the school, told the *Procuratorial Daily*. “Through the activity, we aimed to introduce students to the consequences of breaking the law so as to better prevent juvenile delinquency and promote



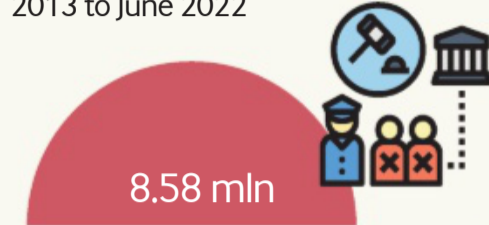
A prosecutor gives a lecture on national security in a primary school in Huaian, Jiangsu Province, on April 14

Performance of Procuratorial Organs in the New Era

Number of people prosecuted by procuratorial organs from 2013 to June 2022



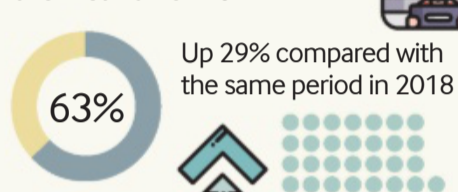
Criminal suspects arrested under approval by procuratorial organs from 2013 to June 2022



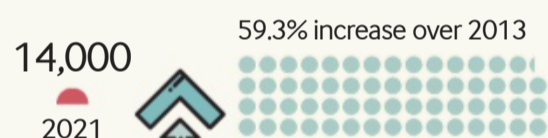
Prosecutions for serious violent crimes



Juvenile non-arrest rate in the first half of 2022



Number of people prosecuted for intellectual property infringement crimes



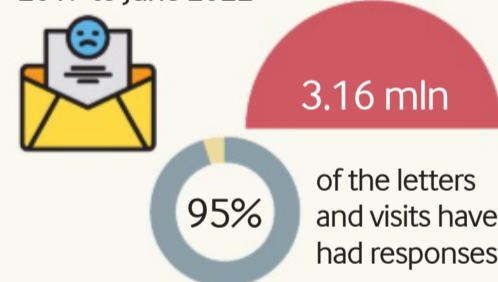
Number of people prosecuted for crimes that disrupted the order of market economy from 2013 to June 2022



Number of public interest litigation cases procuratorial organs have filed since 2017



Number of complaint letters and visits procuratorial organs received from 2019 to June 2022



(Source: Supreme People's Procuratorate; designed by Pamela Tobey)

their healthy growth.”

More than 39,000 prosecutors across the country are serving as part-time vice principals in more than 77,000 primary and secondary schools, according to the SPP. Their responsibilities include taking charge of legal education programs, overseeing works to protect students' rights and interests and prevent juvenile delinquency, and educating students who seriously misbehave, according to a document jointly issued by the SPP and the Ministry of Education, which took effect on January 1.

Protection of minors is a priority for procuratorial organs. In 2018, the SPP established a procuratorial office specializing in juvenile delinquency cases.

“Two-way protection” is a fundamental

principle for prosecutors in dealing with juvenile crimes, Tong said.

“In handling such cases, we should educate and help young criminals to the maximum extent while exhausting our ability to rescue juvenile victims,” Tong explained. According to him, the juvenile non-arrest rate in the first half of this year was 63 percent, up 29 percentage points compared with the same period in 2018.

During the same period, the number of prosecutions involving school violence and bullying crimes dropped 84.6 percent from the same period in 2018, according to Tong.

A guardian of the public

Over the past decade, prosecutors have found greater scope for their abilities.

Two provincial-level cultural relics that were in disrepair, located deep in a remote mountainous area in Xishui County, Hubei, have been preserved with the help of local prosecutors.

The prosecutors from the public interest litigation department of the local procuratorate noticed the items when they audited the distribution and protection status of cultural relics at the county museum in April.

They visited the two relics and asked local residents for information about their condition. “We hope the government can restore them as soon as possible,” said one of the local villagers.

Keeping in mind the aspirations of the local people, the prosecutors decided to file a public litigation case requiring to restore the relics. They sent procuratorial suggestions to the cultural relics authority on the issue.

The cultural relics authority organized experts to investigate the site and allocated 340,000 yuan (\$50,320) for repairs and maintenance. In July, the repair work was completed and the road leading to the relics was built.

“Public interest litigation is a brand-new function of procuratorial organs, and it is a major reform launched after the 18th National Congress of the CPC,” Hu Weilie, Director General of the Eighth Procuratorial Office of the SPP, said at the press conference.

According to Hu, over the past five years, procuratorial organs have adhered to a people-centered principle and have regarded safeguarding public interests as the ultimate goal of performing their legal supervision duties. To date, they have filed 670,000 public interest litigation cases since 2017.

“Procuratorial organs will act under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law, uphold the people-centered principle, and strengthen legal supervision, contributing to the endeavor to turn China into a great modern socialist country in all respects,” Tong said. **BR**

A Close-Up Look at New Trends

By Henry Huiyao Wang & Mabel Lu Miao

In the decade before the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the world, delegations from the Center for China and Globalization (CCG) had visited counterparts across the Pacific in the U.S. at least twice a year. However, the unabated spread of the virus has to a large extent hindered exchanges between the two countries.

This year's unusual journey marks the first time in more than two years that CCG has made an international visit. This one-month track II diplomatic tour, a tour of nongovernmental and people-to-people diplomacy, started in Singapore, followed by New York and Washington, D.C. in the U.S., then Paris, Berlin and Brussels in Europe, and finally Seoul in the Republic of Korea, with the goal of communicating face to face with leaders and experts from local think tanks, academia and business circles.

To our knowledge, this is the first Chinese think tank delegation to visit the U.S. since COVID-19 broke out, which is a positive signal that people-to-people exchanges are returning.

The ecosystem

Human and cultural exchanges between China and the U.S. have been stagnant or at times even nonexistent for more than two years. Grievances and misunderstandings have increased despite virtual talks, and even after extensive and intense dialogue, we can still feel unprecedented negative sentiment toward China in the U.S.

However, at the same time, we were moved by the warm welcome we received. And the enthusiasm of people wanting to

visit China as well as the desire for return to some level of stability in Sino-U.S. relations and the resumption of bilateral cultural and people-to-people exchanges were still there.

Probably because we hadn't seen each other for quite some time, everyone had a lot to say and seemingly endless questions. Many of the events we participated in ran over time. Many U.S. colleagues are quite dissatisfied

with the current lack of communication between the two sides and some scholars at the conferences and meetings cited negative sentiment on the U.S. side and long quarantines required in China as probably being the major barriers keeping them from coming to China—challenges that forced many of them to change or cancel plans to come here. Many young Americans who were planning to study Chinese language and culture on the Chinese mainland had to either cancel their trip to China or go to other places instead. Since the outbreak of the pandemic,



Henry Huiyao Wang (left), President of the Center for China and Globalization, and Mabel Lu Miao (second left), Secretary General of the think tank, hold a discussion with German counterparts at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Berlin on July 12

the number of American students studying in China has plunged, affecting an entire generation of “China hands,” people with expert knowledge of the language, culture and people of China, in the U.S. Also, it is more and more difficult for Americans to exchange with China due to current climate of anti-China sentiment in the U.S.

The Sino-U.S. relationship is an ecosystem that requires the constant cultivation of new minds, but there was a clear lack of these young minds in Washington. The older generation of China hands like Kenneth G. Lieberthal and Douglas H. Paal have retired and left Washington, while the attitude of younger generations toward China has become less nuanced as they lack a broad and in-depth knowledge base, having been unable to visit China since the pandemic began, and lack firsthand information about China today. This will be detrimental to Sino-U.S. relations in the long run.

Feedback from business circles was essentially the same as academia. U.S. enterprises are very concerned about the impact of geopolitics, particularly the Russia-Ukraine conflict. They are worried about the worsening of U.S.-China relations and a potential crisis in the Taiwan Straits.

Still, many American businesses remain pragmatic and positive maintaining healthy Sino-U.S. economic relations. Interest in China remains high and many businesses hope to return to China as soon as possible. Nonetheless, they worry that if they develop a close relationship with China, they will feel pressure on multiple fronts. They also find it difficult to address negative perceptions of China as there is a more acute lack of understanding about the country right now. However, it isn’t only business people that are feeling this pressure; even the more rational views of China experts in the U.S. are not being heard, which is frustrating for them.

The pandemic and rising geopolitical conflicts in recent years, for example the Ukraine crisis, have complicated relations between the world’s two largest economies. The lack of face-to-face communication and private exchanges between the two sides has

led to strategic misjudgment and disinformation by some U.S. policymakers on China.

Additionally, as the U.S. struggles to cope with economic problems, such as inflation and supply chain disruptions, and a series of COVID-19 impacts, China, unfortunately, has been widely used as a scapegoat to sway U.S. public opinion. The U.S. Government has now put almost 1,100 Chinese companies on sanction lists, which has severely damaged Sino-U.S. trade relations.

A large number of scholars who study China, many of whom have profound expertise on China research and hold an objective stance on Sino-U.S. relations, have failed to keep their research on China up to date during the pandemic. Most information coming from Western media and the small number of Chinese English-language media is far from sufficient. There are few English research reports published by Chinese think tanks. As a result, it is difficult for these Western scholars to maintain their accuracy and influence as they plan policy recommendations, which in turn upsets the status quo.

Many in the U.S. feel a sense of urgency in enhancing bilateral exchanges, hoping to promote visits, overseas study and tourism. Some suggest that China and the U.S. should work to restore people-to-people and cultural exchanges as soon as possible to improve public sentiment, and then consider what to do next. Some proposed solutions in this regard include U.S. personnel visiting China adopting a “closed-loop” model similar to that used during the Olympic and

Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, enabling both sides to sit down and have a face-to-face conversation.

Issue-based solutions

Representatives from both sides raised concerns on many issues in Sino-U.S. relations during our meetings. For example, businesses we met with in New York expressed concern about Chinese enterprises listing on U.S. stock exchanges being delisted and tightening regulations. They also raised many questions about China’s economic development, its COVID-19 prevention policy, and its stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. We answered them frankly and based on the actual situation in China.

State-owned enterprise subsidies and fair competition issues are what concern the U.S. most now. At present, the number of Chinese companies on the *Fortune* 500 list exceeds that of American companies. Many American multinational companies believe that entering the Chinese market means competing with state-owned enterprises, which are thought to be under constant state sponsorship.

To address the above issues, we explained to them that Chinese central and local governments are giving more support to implementing opening-up policies, ensuring a fair business environment as well as introducing preferential policies for enterprise development. The Ministry of Commerce has set up the National Center for Complaints of Foreign-Invested Enterprises to provide timely feedback and help multinationals understand relevant policies.

The Foreign Investment Law took effect in 2020. The law aims to make foreign investment policies more transparent and ensure domestic and foreign companies are subject to a unified set of rules and compete on a level playing field. More new free trade zones have recently been established, and other opening-up policies are being implemented. More new measures have entered the pipeline since the Central Government began its application to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, an 11-member trade pact, and the Digital Economy ►►

Partnership Agreement, an international agreement that seeks to bolster digital trade. This means much work ahead to increase China's openness.

As one of the largest markets in the world, as well as a country with abundant manufacturing capacity, China is always an ideal destination for foreign investment. The country welcomes foreign entrepreneurs to do business. This is a doctrine that has never been changed and will remain the same, despite the turbulence of global geopolitics. China will one day become the largest market in the world that no multinational corporations can afford to abandon.

We also stressed that multinational enterprises, for their part, should first understand and respect China's sovereignty and observe Chinese regulations. They can establish a better image by assuming corporate social responsibility and participating in telling the true story of China.

Despite different understandings on both sides, discussions were frank and straightforward, but overall, those we met in the U.S. tended to talk about specific issues. Therefore, while it is necessary to emphasize a "mutually beneficial" macro strategy, it is necessary that we put more emphasis on taking initial steps in solving issues, such as people-to-people and cultural and media exchanges to stabilize bilateral relations, starting small and solving fundamental problems that are impeding efforts to improve Sino-U.S. relations.

Some U.S. officials echoed the need to restart Sino-U.S. relations by finding concrete solutions to specific issues, while think tank leaders proposed reducing "Microphone Diplomacy" between the U.S. and China—namely the practice common to both countries of holding debates via public speeches—to take the rhetoric down a notch, talk less about

major issues, and focus on solving specific issues.

China-U.S.-EU balance

The overall atmosphere in Europe was quite different from before the pandemic. Europe has learned to live with the virus and tourism and service industries have fully recovered with subways and other public spaces busy and crowded. There was a general dissatisfaction with the inconvenience of reduced flights to and from China. Many hoped that normal flights would resume and people-to-people and cultural exchanges such as tourism and study could continue.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has also had a great impact on China-EU relations. Europeans generally have a negative view of China as they feel it has sided with Russia in the conflict. The EU's largest economies, France and Germany, are preparing to publish China strategic policy reports and during our visit we constantly reassured them of China's emphasis on respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries as well as China's desire to promote peace talks. We believe that a great deal more work needs to be done to build trust and dispel doubts.

The China-EU Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) has been on hold for more than a year, and a new round of review

will begin in October this year. But what will come of it? Can the China-EU five-year economic cooperation plan be rekindled? Will China and the EU hold high-level meetings in the near future? Can proposed investment plans be implemented? Can sanctions on both sides be lifted so that the CAI can be activated? These are some of the questions we discussed during our visit.

Face-to-face communication is far more effective than online meetings. Sitting together makes it easier for people to open up, share more information, and resolve misunderstandings. People-to-people exchanges between China and the EU can act as a catalyst to warm relations. Europeans have taken our visit as a signal that China is gradually opening up channels for offline communication, and we are also working hard to promote cooperation and exchange. It is this kind of communication that will decide whether the CAI and many other issues begin to resume progress.

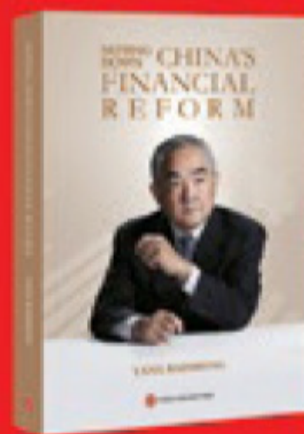
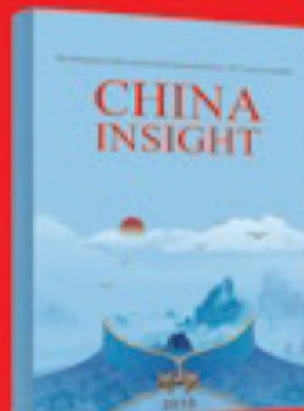
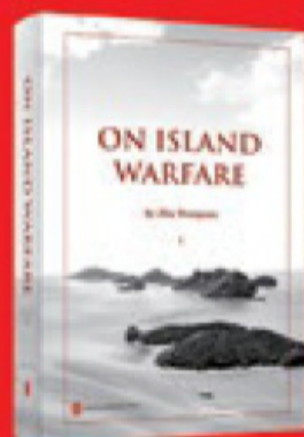
In the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the relationship between Europe and the U.S. has become stronger, and the two sides have become closer in terms of ideology and values.

However, China is the EU's largest trading partner and while the bloc's political security may be more closely dependent on the U.S., economic security and trade are more dependent on China. China and Europe have many things in common and should work to cooperate more on issues like climate change and the digital economy.

A mechanism for high-level dialogue and coordination between China, the U.S. and the EU would play a positive role in promoting world peace and common development. We proposed the concept of a "G3" during our time in Europe, which places Europe in a key position as a middleman between China and the U.S. and would contribute greatly to maintaining stability in geopolitics and international relations. **BR**

The Sino-U.S. relationship is an ecosystem that requires the constant cultivation of new minds, but there was a clear lack of these young minds in Washington

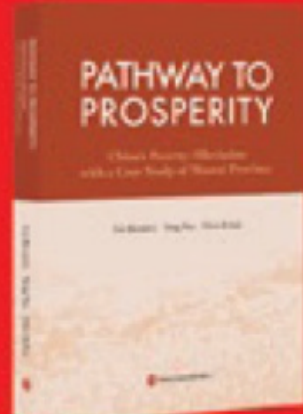
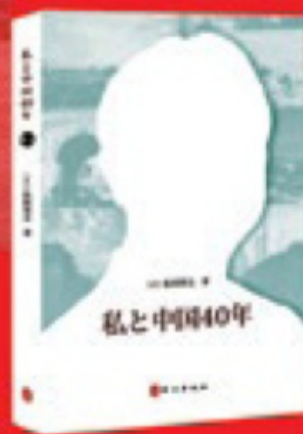
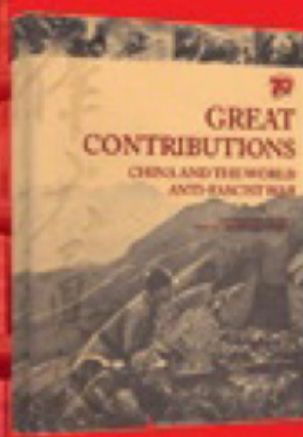
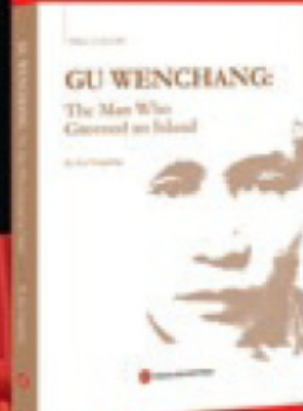
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Refocusing On Development

By Zhong Cheng

The global economy is struggling to recover. The COVID-19 pandemic is eroding decades of gains in global development, international development cooperation lacks drive, the North-South gap continues to widen, crises are emerging in food and energy security, and the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is encountering new difficulties.

At the same time, development remains as important as ever and all countries, especially developing ones, aspire to step up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Emerging markets and developing countries are more resolved to seek strength through unity, and the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is bringing more opportunities.

Against this backdrop, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) at the general debate of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2021. The initiative aims to enable the international community to refocus on development, and to contribute China's solutions and wisdom to provide public goods and address difficulties holding back global development.

Widely recognized

The GDI was put forward by China, but belongs to the world. It has been warmly received by other countries and international organizations.

On January 20, the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN held a meeting to launch the Group of Friends of the GDI at the UN headquarters in New York. Delegates from over 100 countries joined the meeting, including more than 80 ambassadors and over 20 heads of UN agencies.

That the launch was so well attended is

indicative of the value the UN and its members attach to the GDI, and that the global partnership it has formed is robust enough to withstand current and future challenges. This high level of participation is the result not only of many nations' recognition of the GDI's strong potential to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but also of China's drawing of wide international consensus in the formulation of the initiative's core concepts, and its aligning of the key areas of cooperation with the priorities of all parties. This consensus forms the necessary foundation for the initiative's sustained growth.

The establishment of the Group of Friends of the GDI is an important step in the building of the cooperation mechanism for this initiative and is an illustration of China's determination to practice true multilateralism.

Taking root

At the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development in late June, President Xi further proposed to foster a development paradigm featuring benefits for all, balance, coordination, inclusiveness, win-win cooperation and common prosperity. He also put forward a four-point proposal for cooperation on building international consensus on promoting development, creating an international environment conducive to development, fostering new drivers for global development,

and forging a global development partnership. The leaders in attendance reached extensive consensuses including:

—Committed to multilateralism: upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, safeguarding the international system with the UN at its core and upholding the international order underpinned by international law; upholding humanity's common values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, promoting a global governance vision that emphasizes extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and increasing the representation and voice of emerging markets and developing countries in international affairs, institutions and mechanisms; working to build an open world economy, stepping up macroeconomic policy coordination and jointly upholding the stable and sound operation of the international economic and financial systems.

—Committed to development: putting development front and center on the international cooperation agenda, staying committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and fostering united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnerships.

—Committed to a people-centered approach: responding to the call of people from across the world for strengthening international development cooperation and achieving common sustainable development, improving their wellbeing, pursuing people's well-rounded development, and giving everyone the equal opportunity to fulfill their full potential with dignity in a healthy environment.

—Committed to inclusiveness and benefits for all: respecting the development paths independently chosen by the peoples of different countries, taking seriously and addressing development concerns of developing countries with concrete actions, and reducing inequality among and within countries.

—Committed to innovation-driven development: seizing the historic opportunities created by the latest round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, speeding up efforts to harness scientific and technological achievements to boost productivity, and unleashing new impetus for innovation-driven growth; promoting innovation in



Members of a malaria control expert team from China work with local volunteers on the outskirts of Sao Tome, capital of Sao Tome and Principe, an island country off the west coast of Africa, on January 25

development philosophy, institutions and science and technology, enhancing developing countries' capacity for development and contributing to their leapfrog development.

—Committed to harmony between humans and nature: abiding by the targets, principles and framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and of its Paris Agreement, improving global environmental governance, responding to climate change, accelerating transition to green and low-carbon development, enhancing climate adaptation, meeting humanity's demands for a beautiful environment and achieving higher-quality and more sustainable development.

—Committed to results-oriented actions: taking stronger actions, with both the immediate and long-term interests and both challenges and opportunities in mind; strengthening communication and coordination on development policies; supporting the UN in coordinating global effort for the 2030 Agenda, enhancing the monitoring and review of its implementation; encouraging UN development agencies and international financial institutions to play their due roles, and coordinating development cooperation at the global, regional and national levels to generate synergy.

Holding the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development marked the beginning of the GDI taking root. In addition to leaders of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), political dignitaries attending the dialogue included leaders of major emerging markets and developing countries such as

Indonesia, the rotating presidency of the Group of 20; Thailand, the host of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings this year; Kazakhstan, the rotating chair of the Commonwealth of Independent States; Cambodia, the rotating chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Fiji, the host country of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; Argentina, which holds the rotating presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States; Senegal, the current chair of the African Union; Uzbekistan, the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Algeria, the incoming chair of the League of Arab States; as well as Egypt, Ethiopia, Malaysia and Iran.

Concrete measures

President Xi has proposed a host of pragmatic steps to promote global development. China released a list of 32 deliverables, which is part of China's action, in collaboration with partners, to implement the GDI, covering the eight areas of poverty reduction, food security, pandemic response and vaccines, financing for development, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy, and digital era connectivity.

These measures include:

- setting up a Global Alliance for Poverty Reduction and Development,
- holding the World Conference on Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems,
- implementing training programs for Pacific Island Countries on food production, eco-agriculture and other areas via the China-Pacific Island Countries Demonstration Center,
- establishing an International Vaccine Research, Development and Innovation Alliance,
- launching the China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund Phase III of \$50 million,
- establishing the Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management,
- providing 100,000 training opportunities for other developing countries, and
- launching a Digital Literacy and Skills Improvement Initiative.

China will upgrade its South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund into the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, with an additional input of \$1 billion on top of the existing \$3 billion, while enhancing support for the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund established by China, issuing a Global Development Report, and establishing a Global Development Promotion Center and a Global Knowledge Network for Development.

Pooling consensus on worldwide development and mobilizing global resources for development are important parts of China's practical plan to drive the GDI forward. China will work together with the rest of the international community to implement the outcomes of the dialogue, encourage the international community to focus on development issues and increase input in global development cooperation. It welcomes the participation of all countries and international organizations, UN agencies in particular and developed countries included, to create synergy for and inject strong impetus into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. **BR**

The author is an op-ed contributor to *Beijing Review* and an expert on international studies
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Real Culprits for Global Food Crisis

By Lan Xinzhen

Samantha Power, Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, has pointed the finger at China for exacerbating the global food crisis by “hoarding” grain. Power made the accusation during her speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a U.S. think tank, on July 18.

Indeed, the world is facing a food crisis. The World Food Program (WFP) warned in April that 2022 would be a terrible year of hunger. Soaring food prices and supply shortages have pushed 44 million people in 38 countries to the edge of famine. But to blame the crisis on China is nonsense.

Data released by the National Bureau of Statistics shows China has registered a bumper summer harvest this year. The most populous country in the world, and also the largest grain producer, China has managed to feed 20 percent of the world population with less than 9 percent of the world’s arable land and produces one quarter of global grain. This feat is a great contribution to world food security.

Several factors are responsible for the current global food crisis. From the mid and long-term perspective, in the 1990s, developed countries, especially the United States, began to use grain as a means of invasion. Thanks to the vast mechanization of grain production and its resulting low cost, U.S. dealers managed to sell grain to developing countries in large amounts cheaply, thus undermining agriculture in these countries and manipulating their grain markets. For decades, global food prices have been dominated by four companies — Archer Daniels Midland, Bunge and Cargill of the United States and Louis Dreyfus of France,



which control 80 percent of grain trade around the world.

Developed countries’ use of grain for industrial purposes is also squeezing global food supply. According to research by China Futures, a Chinese futures trading firm, currently, 36 percent of corn produced in the United States is used to produce ethanol. Forty-one percent of soybean oil produced in the United States and 20 percent of that produced globally are used to make biodiesel. Sixty-four percent of rapeseed oil in the European Union and 20 percent of the world’s are also used for biodiesel. Huge industrial demand for grain is therefore responsible for soaring food prices and food shortages.

In recent years the world has been shaken by the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather, and geopolitical conflicts, which have disrupted food production and supply chains. Rocketing grain prices push low-income

countries into a severe food crisis. Hit by La Niña, the periodic cooling of ocean surface temperatures across the tropical Pacific that can cause extreme weather conditions, in 2020 and 2021, Brazil saw severe droughts and a slump of soybean production, while Southeast Asia was ravaged by rainstorms, which resulted in declining rice and palm output. The Russia-Ukraine conflict is blockading grain exports from these two breadbaskets. It has sent global grain prices to stratospheric levels. Wheat futures are now priced 40 percent higher than before the conflict.

Moreover, food waste in some developed countries must be blamed. In the United States, discarded food amounts to 150,000 tons every day, 12 percent being grain and 39 percent vegetables and fruits. Thirty million acres of grain, making up 7 percent of the country’s farmland, ends up in dustbins each year. All in all, this makes the United States the largest food waster in the world.

While guaranteeing its own food security, China is also engaged in the fight against global food insecurity, supporting the WFP’s launch of a global humanitarian response hub in China and helping set up transnational grain companies in other countries in a bid to boost local grain production. Chinese agricultural experts have been helping farmers in low-income countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the South Pacific with crop growing techniques. Since the beginning of this year, China has provided more than 30,000 tons of food in emergency humanitarian aid to countries in need.

Trapped in a global food crisis, the world should work together to weather storms rather than seeking scapegoats. The U.S., of course, can play a major role in advancing the humanitarian cause; however, the least constructive course of action in this situation is to level accusations at the expense of forming consensus. **BR**

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Comments to dingying@cicgamericas.com

Pelosi's Calculations Behind Taiwan Visit Plan

By Liang Xiao

It seems U.S. House of Representatives Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, is attempting to avoid becoming America's most unpopular politician by earning herself that title in China. In the wake of the scandal over her husband's insider trading, Pelosi is reportedly planning to make an official visit to Taiwan. If she makes the trip, it will be one of the worst provocations against China on the Taiwan question since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States in 1979.

Three months ago, Sino-U.S. relations narrowly avoided the same challenge. Pelosi named the Chinese island of Taiwan as a destination for her visit to Asia in April. Hours later, however, she tested positive for COVID-19 and postponed the trip.

This time, it seems she has a fresh motive. Paul Pelosi, the husband of the country's most powerful woman, was exposed by the U.S. media for having used information allegedly provided by Mrs. Pelosi to earn millions of dollars by stock trading.

Nancy Pelosi's office responded that she herself does not own stocks and is unaware of the relevant transactions. Such rhetoric can no longer quell the anger of the American people, who are suffering from severe inflation. Against the backdrop of the continued decline in President Joe Biden's approval rating, the Democratic Party is likely to lose the mid-term elections in November and the scandal adds to that possibility. Coincidentally, on July 20, the day after the scandal broke,



U.S. Capitol Hill on December 18, 2019

Pelosi again proposed a visit to Taiwan, which is widely believed to be a way of diverting the attention of the American people to China.

For Pelosi herself, the tactics seem to be working. World public opinion is focusing on China and what measures the Chinese military will take in response to the proposed visit. Her husband's multimillion dollar stock scandal would have become trivial in the

face of a potential armed conflict.

It is impossible for Pelosi and her team not to know the consequences involved. Perhaps she thinks that, if she insists on visiting, the Democratic Party can demonstrate a tough stance toward China, and thereby earn political capital for herself.

In reality, the outcomes are largely wishful thinking on Pelosi's part. The Taiwan question concerns China's core interests and is the most sensitive issue in China-U.S. relations. The United States has frequently played the "Taiwan card" and engaged in strategic blackmail against China in recent years, which only undermines the mutual trust between the two countries.

While speaking with Biden on the phone on July 28, President Xi Jinping said China firmly opposes secession aimed at "Taiwan independence" and external interference, and never allows any room for "Taiwan independence" forces in whatever form. He called on the United States to honor the one-China principle and implement the

three China-U.S. joint communiqués both in word and in deed.

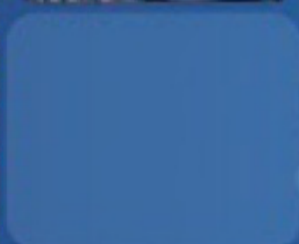
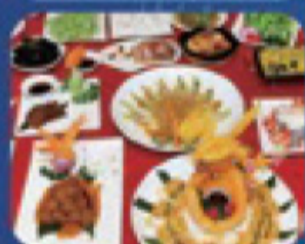
China does not want to see its relations with the U.S. deteriorating, but the premise for avoiding the worst-case scenario is that the United States stops its provocations. Washington must not underestimate China's determination to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity. **BR**

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THROUGH THEIR EYES

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Steering and Piloting

Meeting of presidents in Beijing injects momentum to China-Indonesia partnership By Zhao Wei

Having lived and worked in China since 2015, Hendy Yuniarto, a 33-year-old Indonesian, is a keen observer of relations between the two countries. In his opinion, the significance of Indonesian President Joko Widodo's China trip on July 25 and 26 deserves great attention. "The visit is extraordinary. It is an important diplomatic move to strengthen bilateral relations, as well as part of Indonesia's preparatory work for the summit of the Group of 20 leading economies it will host later this year," Yuniarto, a teacher of Indonesian language, at Beijing Foreign Studies University, told *Beijing Review*.

Widodo was the first foreign head of state to visit China since the Beijing Olympic Winter Games in February. China also became the first stop on the president's first tour of East Asia since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

According to the joint press statement on the meeting of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Widodo in Beijing on July 26, during the visit, both countries renewed the bilateral memorandum of understanding on jointly promoting cooperation within the framework on the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative (Belt and Road Initiative) and the Global Maritime Fulcrum vision, and signed a series of cooperation documents covering research and development of vaccines and genomics, green development, customs information exchange and enforcement, cybersecurity capacity building, marine affairs, and the importation of Indonesian pineapples. They also agreed to accelerate the resumption of people-to-people exchanges, including the return of Indonesian students to China, open more direct flights, and beef up cooperation in such fields as education, tourism, youth and local exchanges.

The future of China and Indonesia, both major developing countries, are closely linked, and the responsibilities the two nations must shoulder are even greater in the current international situation of intertwined forces of transformation and turbulence, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang

Yi said when he co-chaired the second meeting of the China-Indonesia High-Level Dialogue Cooperation Mechanism on the Indonesian island of Bali on July 9.

Friendship rooted in history

In July 2005, a temple dedicated to Zheng He, a Chinese navigator of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) who traveled to Southeast Asia and Africa, opened to the public in Semarang, Central Java Province of Indonesia, as one of the commemorations of the 600th anniversary of Zheng's arrival in the city.

Zheng visited more than 30 nations during his seven voyages. His footprints in Indonesia covered Aceh, Palembang, Cirebon, Semarang, and Gresik, according to historical records. Zheng's fleet brought porcelain, tea and silk, as well as friendship to Indonesia. Similarly, the Indonesian people also gave a warm reception and help to the Chinese crew. They taught the sick crew members to use Indonesian herbs, and some Chinese crew even stayed to live with the local people.

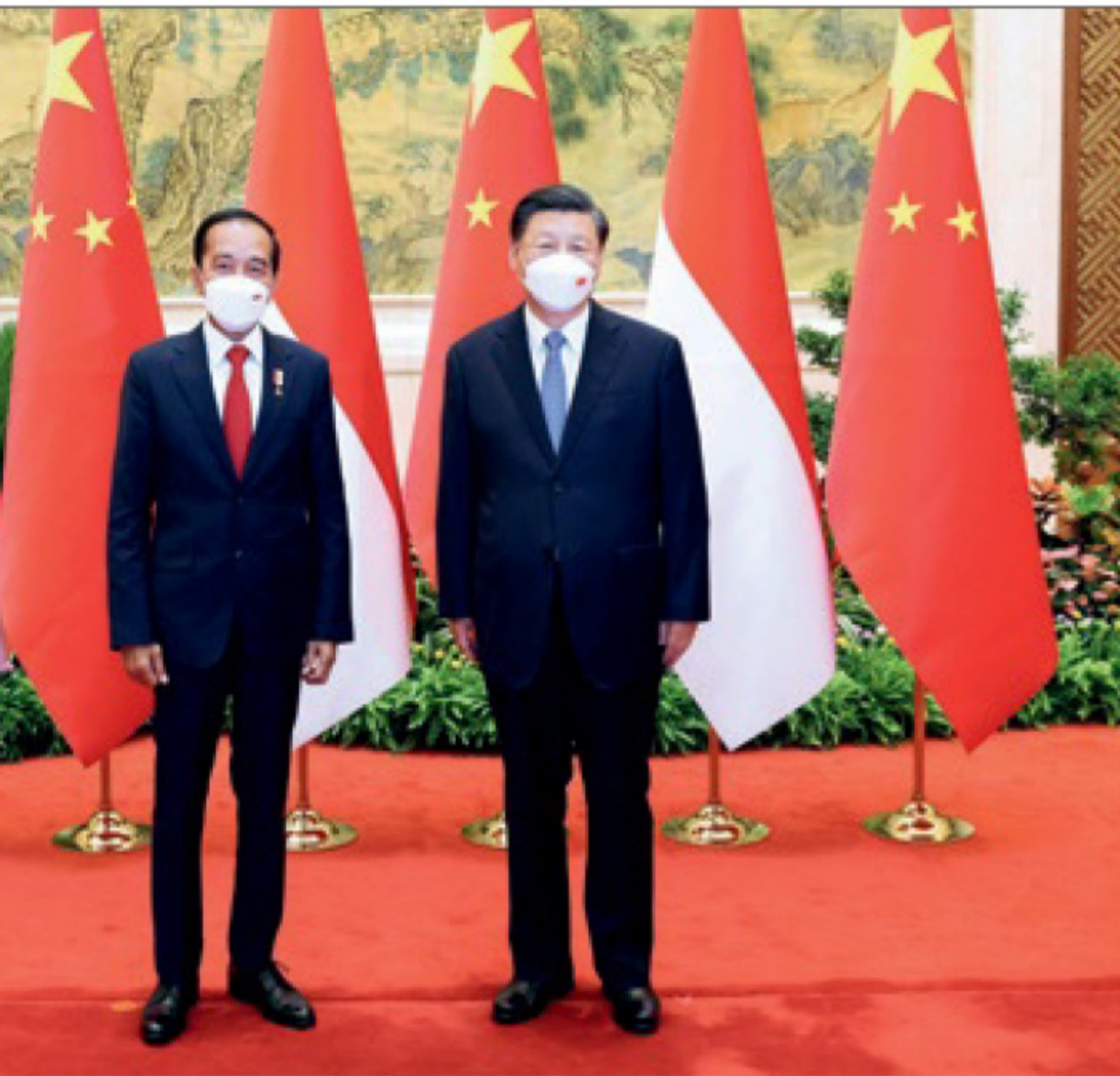
On April 18, 1955, the First Asian-African Conference opened in Bandung, Indonesia, attended by representatives of 29 countries. Most of the attending nations possessed relatively low international standing then. Premier Zhou Enlai, who was also China's Foreign Minister at the time, led the Chinese delegation to the event and put forward the well-known principle of "seeking common ground while shelving difference" in his extemporaneous speech. The innovative idea helped the conference come to a successful conclusion.

"China and Indonesia have joined hands to oppose imperialism and hegemony. Based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence proposed by China, the Bandung Conference formed the 10 principles to promote world peace and cooperation, and the Bandung spirit of unity, friendship and cooperation still has strong vitality today," Lu Kang, Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia, wrote in an article titled *Join Hands to Build China-Indonesia Community with a Shared Future*, published in



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with visiting Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Beijing on July 26





China's *People's Daily* on July 22. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, China was the largest source of foreign visitors to Indonesia and a popular study destination for Indonesian students. More than 2 million Chinese tourists visited Indonesia, and more than 15,000 Indonesian students studied in China in 2019. At least 16 universities in China now offer Indonesian language courses.

Four-wheel drive

With the completion of the last of all 13 tunnels along the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway in Indonesia on June 21, the project is making steady headway toward the goal of opening to traffic in June 2023. The 142-km line is built through cooperation between the two countries. With a designed speed of 350 km per hour, it will cut the journey between Jakarta and Bandung from more than three hours to around 40 minutes.

In 2021, a cooperative initiative between China and Indonesia called Two Countries, Twin Parks was set into motion. The initiative is building business parks in the two countries, which will share interconnected industries, interoperable facilities and reciprocal policies.

“Including the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway and projects under the Two Countries, Twin Parks initiative, cooperation between China and Indonesia under the Belt and Road Initiative is steadily advancing,” Xu Liping, Director of the Center of Southeast Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said in an interview with Shanghai-based news

portal *ThePaper.cn*. The Belt and Road Initiative aims to improve transcontinental connectivity and cooperation. In 2013, President Xi proposed the Silk Road Economic Belt in Kazakhstan and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road in Indonesia.

Despite the spread of COVID-19, China-Indonesia trade and economic cooperation is growing. China has been Indonesia's largest trading partner for nine consecutive years. The bilateral trade volume exceeded \$120 billion in 2021, up 58.6 percent year on year. The growth rate was higher than that of China's imports and exports with any other Southeast Asian countries.

Described as featuring “four-wheel drive,” China-Indonesia cooperation exists not only in the economic sphere, but also in political, people-to-people exchanges and maritime fields, designed to enrich the comprehensive strategic partnership of the two countries.

Indonesia-China relations bear strategic significance and global influence, Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Indonesian Coordinator for Cooperation with China and Coordinating Minister, told Wang when they met in Bali. The two countries have carried out all-round, wide-ranging and multi-tier cooperation with a commitment to building a community with a shared future. Indonesia supports and stands ready to actively participate in the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative proposed by China, Pandjaitan said.

The Technical Committee Meeting on Maritime Cooperation and China-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation Fund were established by the two governments in 2012. Since then, they have become important platforms for cooperation between the two countries in the maritime field. During the committee's 11th meeting held via video link in October 2021, the two sides agreed that two proposed projects would be sponsored by the fund and three new proposals would be submitted to the China-Indonesia High-Level Dialogue Cooperation Mechanism for further consideration and approval.

“Economic cooperation often makes headlines, but cooperation in education and culture must also be an essential concern. In the future, there will be more Chinese people who understand Indonesian culture and more and more Indonesians who understand Chinese culture,” Yuniarto said. **BR**

Copyedited by G.P. Wilson
Comments to zhaowei@cicgamericas.com

Exploring Life in Orbit

China adds an important lab to its space station By Wang Hairong

How a fish is going to swim in a place where there is no buoyancy is a question that Tian Qing, an engineer with the Shanghai Institute of Technical Physics (SITP), has been wondering about. “The fish may use strange swimming motions, which is probably very fun to watch,” Tian said. The answer to this question is expected to soon be revealed after the *Wentian* space lab was launched on July 24, carrying scientific payloads including a fish tank with water, algae, zebrafish and microorganisms.

Wentian successfully docked with core module *Tianhe* of China’s space station some 400 km above Earth in the early morning of July 25. Several hours later, the three taikonauts already in the core module entered the lab module to check it out.

Wentian, weighing 23 tons before taking off and measuring 17.9 meters in length and 4.2 meters in maximum diameter, is China’s largest spacecraft ever sent into Earth’s orbit.

Consisting of a work cabin, an airlock cabin and a resource cabin, the lab module serves as a backup of the core module and a platform for scientific experiments. It is an important part of China’s space station, the in-orbit construction of which began last April and is scheduled to be complete by the end of this year.

A scientific platform

The lab module was designed primarily for life science and biotechnology research. Experiments will be carried out for studying the growth, aging and genetic traits of plants and animals as well as microbes in the space environment.

Wentian houses several scientific cabinets, each with a height of 1.8 meters, width of about 1 meter, and depth of 0.8 meter, for extensive purposes, Lu Congmin, deputy chief designer of the space application system of China’s manned space program, told Xinhua News Agency.

The bioecology and biotechnology cabinets, each with subunits for conducting experiments, were developed by the SITP, which is a research

institute under Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Zhang Tao, a research fellow with the SITP, said experiments on the space station are usually carried out in three ways—automatically by the experiment systems following predetermined procedures, remotely controlled from ground, and manually by astronauts.

“At present, as the astronauts are not professional scientists, experiments should be designed to be automatically done as much as possible,” he said. “We also train astronauts on the ground, so that they can complete the parts that must be done manually according to the operating manuals.”

In the SITP’s science cabinets, scientists have installed sophisticated microscopes that can automatically track and zoom in on the objects under study, as well as sensors to record and report data. Oxygen and water can also be added into the experiments according to commands issued from Earth.

The bioecology cabinet is for growing creatures such as *Arabidopsis* (rockcress), fruit flies and zebrafish to study the effects of the microgravity environment on them. In one subunit of the cabinet is the fish tank, a closed aquatic ecosystem. “In the microgravity environment of space, the tank must be airtight, otherwise water will fly away,” Tian said.

In the miniature ecosystem, aquatic plants produce oxygen for fish while fish exhale carbon dioxide to be used by aquatic plants for photosynthesis, and microbes serve as decomposers. The ecosystem is expected to be a naturally balanced one, yet if the balance is broken, a life support system is available to intervene. Upon completion of the experiment, fish eggs will be collected and brought back to Earth.

Such a simplified aquatic ecosystem will shed light on building ecological systems on the Moon and Mars in the future so as to provide astronauts with food, water and oxygen, Zheng Weibo, a SITP researcher, said.

While some experiments are future-oriented, others may help unlock the mystery around the



development of early life on Earth.

“Human beings are unable to return to billions of years ago when the seeds of life were produced to trace their extraterrestrial origin, however the space station environment featuring microgravity and strong radiation provides a similar environment to the primitive Earth,” Ding Kun, an electronics engineer with the SITP, said.

The biotechnology cabinet is for experiments on molecules, cells, tissues and organs. Lu said these experiments will help people understand cell growth and differentiation under microgravity, the origin and evolution of life, as well as high-efficiency protein, polypeptide drugs, and nanocrystalline bone materials.

The science glovebox provides a clean and confined space for astronauts to conduct experiments, the cryogenic storage cabinet can store samples at low temperatures, and the variable gravity experiment cabinet can simulate lunar gravity, Martian gravity and other different gravity levels.

In addition to the cabinets, some payloads



(Up) Astronaut Chen Dong about to open the hatch to the *Wentian* space lab on July 25

Taikonauts in China's space station pose after entering the *Wentian* space lab on July 25



are put outside the module to record data of space particles and some to study the performance of materials such as lubricants in the space environment.

More than a lab

Wentian is more than a science lab. “In addition to its scientific functions, *Wentian* also serves as a backup control station to *Tianhe* in case of emergencies or malfunctions. It has all the same flight-control devices as those inside the core module to operate the entire the *Tiangong* space station,” Zhang Qiao, head designer of *Wentian*'s overall structure, told *China Daily*.

The lab module also has three separate sleeping quarters to accommodate astronauts and a personal hygiene section.

It has a 5-meter robotic arm that is noted for its precision and flexibility. The device can carry up to 3 tons of payload, and can be linked with a 10-meter robotic arm on the core module to create a joint arm capable of reaching all major parts of the space station, Zhang said.

Wentian's airlock cabin, with a wider hatch and inner space than the one on the core module, will be used as the main exit-entry point for extravehicular activities when the space station is completed, according to Zhang.

With two flexible solar panels that in total can stretch up to 55 meters long and cover more than 200 square meters, *Wentian* can generate enough electricity to power the entire space station, Zhang Hao, a researcher with the Fifth Academy of China Aerospace Science and Technology Group, told Xinhua.

Upon completion, the *Tiangong* station will have one core module and two lab modules, with the other lab module *Mengtian* set to be launched in October. *Mengtian* will serve microgravity scientific research, with experiment cabinets for the study of the physics of fluids, material science, combustion science and basic physics, according to the China Manned Space Agency.

Before its completion at the end of this year, *Tiangong* will be visited by the cargo-shipping *Tianzhou-5* and three more taikonauts ferried by space shuttle *Shenzhou-15*. **BR**

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Comments to wanghairong@qicgamericas.com

Cycling Craze

Popularity of cycling has pushed up sales and led to supply shortfalls

By Ji Jing



Competitors ride by Sayram Lake in Bortala Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, during a cycling race on July 25

At dusk on July 17, a group of young people wearing helmets and cycling jerseys rode their bikes around Changling Lake in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province. The activity was organized by a local cycling group.

Cheng Wu, head of the cycling group, said the activity is held every evening and cyclists follow a set route which stretches 24 km. The activity aims to provide cyclists with an opportunity to interact with each other, he told *Heilongjiang Daily*.

The group, established in 2016, now has nearly 500 members. Around 20 members take part in the activity every evening.

Cycling for exercise and social interaction is gaining popularity in China.

A hot sport

Beijing resident Jiang Haozhe bought his first mountain bike for 1,500 yuan (\$221.7) eight years ago when he was still in high school. He later bought other types of bikes such as a folding bike and a road bike to serve different purposes. Some of these bikes cost tens of thousands of yuan each.

Jiang said professional bikes are more suitable for sports purposes as they are sturdier. He chooses different bikes according to the road conditions.

For another Beijing resident surnamed Guo, who seldom has the opportunity to exercise, a 4,000-yuan (\$591) folding bike has become his most important piece of sports equipment. Every day after work, he puts on his cycling jersey and rides from his workplace in Haidian District to his home in the suburban Changping District, 8 km away. The journey takes half an hour. “I bought the bike last year as I felt it more necessary to exercise after the outbreak of the pandemic,” he told *Workers’ Daily*.

Guo Jianrong, Secretary General of Shanghai Bicycle Association, told *Workers’ Daily* that the improvement of urban roads, people’s increased health awareness and the hosting of cycling competitions in China have attracted many young people to cycling. He added that bicycles have also reduced people’s exposure to public transportation during the pandemic and therefore lowered the chance of infection.

During the pandemic, the sport has gained more popularity as it has met people’s demand for exercise while indoor sports venues were closed for pandemic control. When public transportation was suspended during the pandemic in Beijing this spring, some people also switched to cycling to work.

According to statistics compiled by fitness app Keep, the number of its users who cycled reached 400,000 in March, up 33.84 percent year on year. According to a report on China’s sports bicycles for 2021, published by Internet company Guangzhou Magic Cycling Network Technology Co. Ltd.,

24.5 percent of its more than 30 million users cycle every day and nearly 50 percent cycle more than once a week.

The popularity of the sport has pushed up bicycle sales. During the online shopping festival around June 18 this year, the presale volume of cycling-related products including bikes surged 240 percent year on year.

A professional bike plus a whole set of equipment costs at least 8,000 yuan (\$1,182), about 10 times the price of an ordinary one. In addition, the maintenance cost is also much higher.

The report revealed that 27.88 percent of purchasers would like to pay 8,001 to 15,000 yuan (\$1,182 to 2,217) for a new bike, while 26.91 percent have a budget of 15,001 to 30,000 yuan (\$2,217 to 4,434).

Strengthening weak links

However, while demand has increased owing to the recent cycling craze, the production and shipping of key components have been affected by the pandemic, and some popular bike models are in short supply. In Beijing, consumers need to wait two to three months or even half a year for some bestselling models.

The inadequate supply happens not only domestically but also globally as supply of key components produced by Japanese company Shimano has been disrupted by the pandemic. Shimano accounts for more than 60 percent of the global bike gear shifter market share.

Lin Lin, General Manager of Fire Tribe Sports Technology Co. Ltd. in Beijing, told business news portal Lanjinger that nearly 80 percent of multi-speed bicycles use gear shifters produced by Shimano. “The pandemic has slowed the shipping of the component and the company’s planned capacity has failed to meet this year’s surging demand, which resulted in the supply shortfall,” Lin said.



A staff member works at a bicycle tire factory in Guangzong, a county in Hebei Province, on July 26

China is a large bike producer. According to statistics from the China Bicycle Association, last year China produced 76.39 million bikes. The whole industry reported revenues totaling 308.5 billion yuan (\$45.6 billion) and profits of 12.7 billion yuan (\$1.9 billion).

“However, domestic brands lag behind their foreign counterparts in terms of marketing and brand image promotion. Their products are mostly designed for daily use and commuting and can’t meet the consumers’ demand for sports bikes,” Zhou Fuyuan, General Manager of Magic Cycling, told Beijing-based *Securities Times*.

According to the Magic Cycling report, 31.13 percent of consumers prefer to buy foreign brands while only 13.29 percent opt for domestic ones.

Zhou said in addition to strengthening research and development, domestic brands should increase spending on brand promotion and improve their brand influence by sponsoring cycling competitions, activities and cyclists. “By enhancing brand influence, companies can increase profits which can be invested in product research and development to form a virtuous cycle,” Zhou said.

In recent years, some new domestic brands are winning more recognition from consumers for being cost-effective, Zhou said.

Customers can spend half as much on a domestic bike as they spend on a foreign one with similar functions. Domestic bicycle component companies are also gaining more market share globally. For instance, some components such as handlebars produced by Shenzhen-based HL Corp. have the largest market share globally, accounting for 12 percent of the total.

However, Zhou added that China still faces bottlenecks in the production of key components such as high-end gear shifters.

In June, five ministries including the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued a guideline on promoting the high-quality development of light industry, which required accelerating breakthroughs in key technologies such as bike gear shifters.

Hopefully the move will inject impetus into the domestic bicycle industry. **BR**



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SPRING BUD PROJECT

TOGETHER LET'S HELP LITTLE FLOWERS BLOSSOM

Sounds of Home

New trends in the protection of Chinese dialects

By Li Qing

What was life like in ancient China? If you've ever pondered this question, a studio called Shenlouzhi may give you some insights. *Shenlou* means "mirage," *zhi* translates as "recording."

"Ancient life is like an illusion for us contemporary people; it appears to be fantastic, but is completely out of reach so we'll never really know what things were really like back in the day. That's how we came up with this name," Wu Yicheng, founder of the studio, told *Beijing Review*.

Established in 2019, the young team of five creates short stories set in different dynasties and regions, and turns them into videos to introduce traditions and cultures from all over China. Each production involves a lot of work, ranging from historical research to creating authentic costumes and tracking down era-appropriate accessories and furniture. Moreover, all stories are told in the dialect of their geographical origin, impressing viewer audiences nationwide.

By late June, the studio had released three videos. One of them is in the Suzhou dialect—or Suzhounese. It tells the tale of a Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) chef who had the chance to listen to some Kunqu Opera after she prepared a meal for a hungry opera performer.

Gardens, food, and tradition... The video includes many Suzhounese elements, reflecting the city's exquisite lifestyle in ancient China. Another one of its highlights is the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for its voice-over narration, courtesy of the studio's

collaboration with leading Chinese AI firm iFLYTEK.

"The experience made me reevaluate the relationship between dialects and advanced technologies," Wu said. "Today, I see more options to pass our dialects on to the next generations thanks to scientific and technological developments," the linguaphile from Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province, added.

Finding one's voice

Established in 1999, iFLYTEK creates voice recognition software and has 10-plus voice-based Internet/mobile products covering the education, communication, music and smart toys industries in its repertoire. The company's cooperation with Shenlouzhi Studio began in October 2021, with its first production released two months later.

"The video documents traditional aesthetics and culture, which can reach more young netizens," Li Qiangjun, the initiator of iFLYTEK's project on dialect protection, said. The project was initiated in 2017.

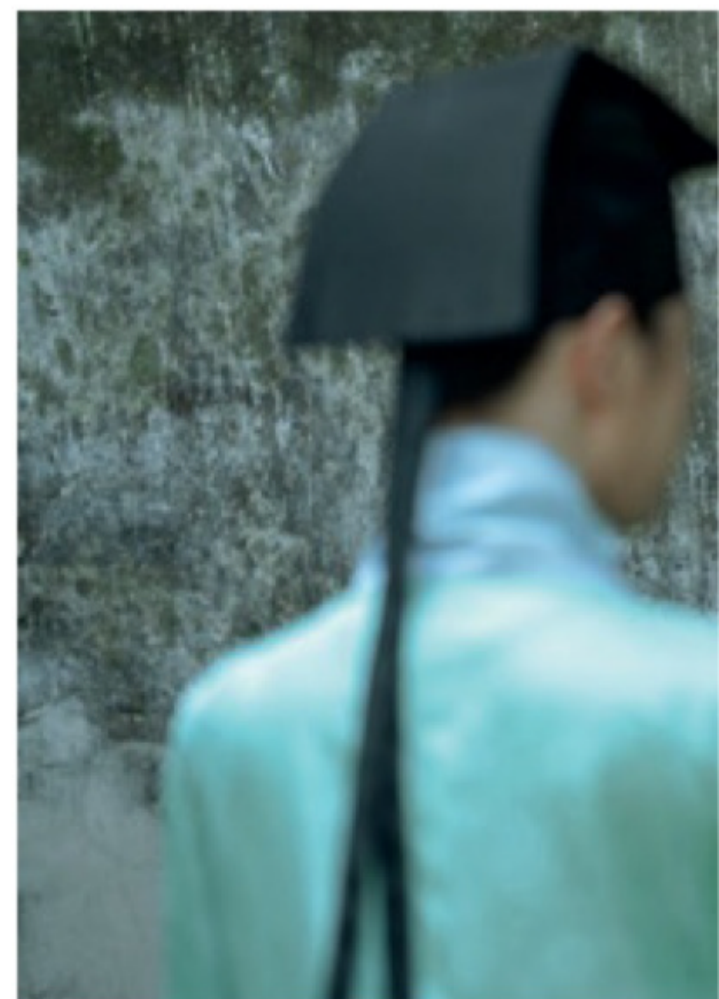
Li believes this latest collaboration with Shenlouzhi Studio can help people better understand Suzhou's culture, including its dialect.

Suzhounese is one branch of the Wu language, widely spoken in the Yangtze

River Delta. Wu, and the Suzhou dialect, in particular, are perceived as "soft" to the ear, even resulting in a well-known Chinese idiom: the tender speech of Wu.

Suzhou dialect is a complex language as different districts and counties speak different forms of Suzhounese, each featuring their own unique pronunciation. This meant that the video's AI voice-over narration required the guidance from dialect coaches to get the most authentic accent and vocabulary possible.

iFLYTEK also improved its speech synthesis system. After analyzing large amounts of Suzhounese data, it produced a soundtrack, indexes of which were adjusted according to experts'



Stills from a collaborative video in Suzhounese by Shenlouzhi Studio and iFLYTEK released in March

suggestions in terms of tone, intonation, pausing and breathing, to ensure the storyline unfolded in line with the historical background and personality traits of the characters.

Making the most of the latest technologies in speech recognition as well as its influence in the industry, iFLYTEK wanted to create both a database and a platform for communication between dialect speakers and organizations promoting the different dialects of China.

It has built an Internet platform and a smartphone application for users who are willing to protect and promote their own dialects to voluntarily upload their speech. Thanks to their participation, 23 dialects have been included in iFLYTEK's project.

Preserved for posterity

"Dialect protection is a means to inherit our culture and history as both retain the local characteristics," Li said, adding they further strengthen people's sense of identity as well as each city's ability to

promote its unique culture.

iFLYTEK hopes to create a digital public cultural space integrating the preservation, protection, display, exchange, research and creative development of dialect culture, leading the way in dialect culture popularization and promoting dialect protection.

The inheritance of local dialects is a common concern across China as many are on the verge of disappearing. For instance, the China Language Resources Protection Project, launched by the Chinese Government, has been surveying, displaying and developing language resources for seven years. Implemented by the Ministry of Education and the National Language Commission, it is the world's largest language resource base.

Zhao Rixin, a professor studying dialects at Beijing Language and Culture University, told *Beijing Review* that the government project is carried out through field research that records the speech of native dialect speakers nationwide.

"The language resources protection

project focuses on dialects in their purest forms; in fact, they could all very well be on display at museums as part of the country's culture. However, iFLYTEK's project encourages people to use their native dialects so that they remain living languages," Li said.

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, too, has been active in the field of language protection since 2019. Starting from the Sichuanese dialect, the company launched a competition to select outstanding dialect speakers. The winner received an hourly income of 700 yuan (\$103.8) to record her voice, which was used in the company's intelligent voice interaction products, like the Tmall Genie.

Protecting dialects requires cooperating with society, including companies, organizations and individuals, so we can achieve sustainable development for dialects, Li said. **BR**

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COURTESY PHOTO



Skateboard Dreaming

Young people like to visit the Shougang Extreme Park at dusk to skateboard, rollerblade or boulder. The site is part of the Shougang Industrial Park in west Beijing, close to the venue for the big air competition at the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. Would-be professional skateboarder Shang Sijia is one of the frequenters.

Shang was selected for the Beijing team in 2019, when she was 9 years old.

She is preparing to compete in events including the Third National Youth Games in 2023. Her final dream is to take to the Olympic stage.

Skateboarding made its Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020. Now, it is a permanent Olympic sport. **BR**

(Text and photos by Wei Yao)

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Comments to dingying@qicigamericas.com





3



1. Shang Sijia training in one of the Shougang Extreme Park's bowls
2. Shang and her coach Xu Ying watch a fellow teammate drop in during a training session
3. Shang maintains her usual level of training despite Beijing's scorching summer heat
4. Shang and Xu at the X-games facility
5. Shang skates during a training session



5



4

Unleashing Young People's Creativity

By Ritu Raj Subedi



The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Youth Technology and Innovation Forum in session in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, on June 2

The world is now passing through the Fourth Industrial Revolution, marked by the fusion of digital, robotics and biological technological advancements. Crosscutting technologies such as artificial intelligence, genetic engineering and quantum computing have brought about transformative changes in social development.

Young people have played an essential role in humanity's progress. For example, 23-year-old Isaac Newton developed the principles of motion and gravitation, which enabled the discovery of the steam engine and mechanized production of goods, ushering the world into the First Industrial Revolution.

The Second Industrial Revolution became possible when Michael Faraday invented electricity at 21. With the invention of semiconductors in the 1950s, the world moved into the age of electronic that heralded the Third Industrial Revolution.

Last year, China proposed an initiative

to hold a forum to inspire further the creativity of young people in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries. As a result, the SCO held the Youth Technology and Innovation Forum in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, in June. The forum recognized young people's crucial role in promoting development and prosperity through their energy, innovation capability, and bold vision.

Since its inception in 2001, the SCO has emerged as a model multifaceted regional body committed to promoting political stability, security and economic cooperation. It has always upheld the Shanghai Spirit and conducted important theoretical and practical work for building a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future. It has fostered further cooperation characterized by solidarity, inclusiveness and mutual learning for countries with different social systems and development paths.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought

unprecedented health and economic challenges to the globalized world, reinforcing the importance of scientific and technical innovation and cooperation among nations.

Given all this, efforts to promote cooperation among young people have become even more critical for SCO members. The convening of this forum has facilitated member states' better understanding of the development trends of cutting-edge technologies and industries, offering a platform for discussing global innovation rules and innovation governance.

The platform allows participants to share their innovative ideas and development philosophies, which could be helpful for them when jointly exploring ways to tackle challenges facing the world, such as poverty reduction and sustainable development. It will also boost exchanges among countries in education, talent training, health and information infrastructure construction.

Innovation and entrepreneurship mark the progress and dynamism of a country, enabling it to address problems and promote economic growth. Seizing the opportunities that the SCO forum and related incubator programs have provided, the young generation that represents the future of a country and the world as a whole will be able to master more skills and raise their capacity for pursuing innovation.

Under the SCO youth business cooperation framework, it is expected that more young people will have access to the imperative resources for innovation and entrepreneurship, such as capital, cutting-edge technologies, and a favorable environment. All this will stimulate their vitality so that they will thus serve as a bridge of friendship and solidarity and make efforts to help deal with challenges facing development and governance. **BR**

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